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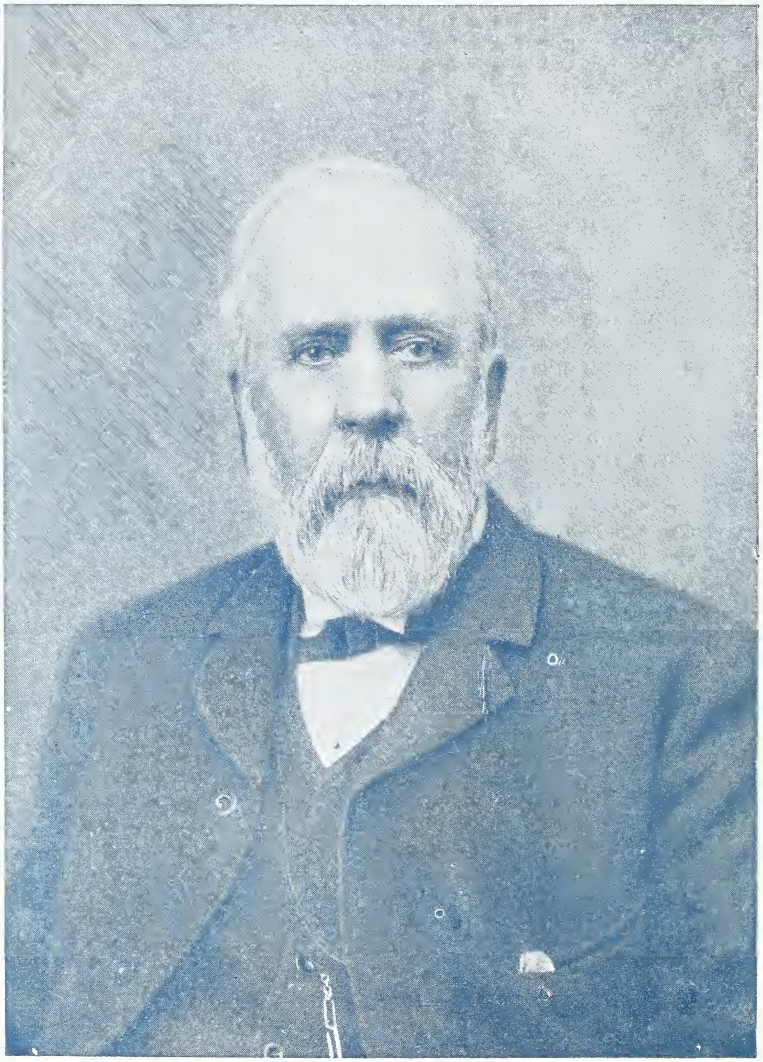

MEMORIALS

OF THE

Life, Public Services and Character

OF

WILLIAM T. SUTHERLIN,

As Furnished by his Friends

and Published by his Family.

"HAEC OLIM MEMINISSE JUVABIT."

DANCE BROS. & CO.
PRINTERS AND BINDERS
1894

Danaus J. C. Robert
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PREFACE.

That a record of a useful life should be perpetuated, is manifest from many considerations, which need no specification here. When, however, that life was characterized by splendid mental endowments and achievements; when it has touched the public in many relations, calculated to advance its interests, the duty of preserving its history becomes imperative.

Nor should we be satisfied with anything short of an authentic and durable form for the preservation of its achievments, while they are fresh in the public mind, and while documentary evidence is easily accessible? It is with impressions akin to these that the following pages have been written; nor can it be denied that the career of the late WILLIAM T. SUTHERLIN touched not only his native city and county, but the entire State, and left the imprint of his ability and genius in many and varied forms, honorable to Virginia as well as to himself.

Of course in a compilation like the present, no attempt will be made to go into the petty details and circumstances which made up the daily existence of the subject of these memoirs.

We know a man truly when we know him at his greatest and best. We realize his significance for ourselves and for the world, when we see him in the noblest activity of his career, on the loftiest summit and fullest glory of his life.

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Fortunately for a work of this sort, the material is abundant, so much so that what to reject and not what to use, is the more perplexing problem of the two.

This volume, thus prepared for his family and his personal friends, will, we trust, preserve for them the mental portraiture of their friend as they admired and loved him in life; as the promoter of the public weal; the counsellor in times of trouble and perplexity; the fond husband and loving parent, the good citizen and the liberal Christian gentleman.

CHAPTER I.

William Thomas Sutherlin, eldest son of George S. and Mary Norman Sutherlin, was born on his father's farm near Danville, April 7th, 1822. In giving the history of any one, who by virtue of unusual intellect has risen into prominence, there is always a desire to know something of his parentage, beyond the mere mention of his father's and mother's names. Happily in the present instance we are warranted in saying that Geo. S. Sutherlin was an active, upright man, enjoying the esteem of his neighbors, and the fullest confidence of his friends. It is said a child partakes more of the characteristics of its mother than of its father. But whether this be true or not in every instance, it seems to have been so in the present case, for Mary Norman Sutherlin was a woman of superior intellect. She took an interest in public affairs, and conversed upon them with all the incisiveness which was so characteristic of her distinguished son.

George Sutherlin's means were limited, and William being the eldest son, his father needed his assistance on the farm, which he cheerfully rendered. It was a source of much regret to his father that he could not give his promising son all the educational advantages afforded by collegiate training. He, however, did the best he could. He was first sent to a school near home, afterwards to a male school in Danville, and finally, he attended for a short time the

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noted Private School of Joseph Godfrey, of Franklin county.

Of this gentleman, MAJOR SUTHERLIN often spoke in terms of endearment, and to the very last, retained for him an ardent affection, and only a few years ago, expressed a desire in a public letter, that a monument should be erected to his memory. Knowing his affection for his old friend, and teacher, we cannot refrain from publishing a portion of a letter detailing his eccentricities and virtues, written by Thomas T. Tunstall, of Tensaw, Alabama. The letter is addressed to the Editor of the Pittsylvania *Tribune*, and reads as follows:

MARION, PERRY CO., July 10, 1879.

Mr. Editor:—Through the kindness of one of our old Pittsylvania friends, Mr. Chas. M. Lovelace, who resides here, my attention has been called to several paragraphs and articles in the *Tribune* in reference to the last resting place of Joseph P. Godfrey, whose virtues and memory we now propose to perpetuate.

Any movement to promote so laudable a project will find an echo in many a generous heart, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande.

The Penns, the Whittles, the Hairstons, the Dandridges, the Taliaferros, yea all of his pupils who survive him will cheerfully respond to do honor to his memory and unite in any effort to rescue from abscurity and oblivion the hallowed spot where Joseph P. Godfrey reposes.

As for my part whatever I can contribute will be done as a grateful and affectionate task, "a labor of love." Nay, I would gladly make a pilgrimage to old Virginia to pay a tribute to his worth and lay a wreath on his tomb, for I knew him better than them all. Our associations were of the tenderest nature. He was my Fidus Achates—my "*boon companion*" as well as preceptor, and I was his room-mate and bed-fellow for nearly three years at old uncle Billy Mills'

in Henry, and I parted with him in June, 1839, to go to Chapel Hill, whither I was sent by cousin Whit Tunstall, who had the direction of my education and whose name is so dear to us all.

The letters of W. T. SUTHERLIN, of Danville, and E. H. Pritchett, of Haynesville, Ala., to which I have referred, carry me back as you will see over a chasm of forty years, and by some strange magnetism I find myself again in the presence and fellowship of "old Joe."

How well do I recall all his tastes and peculiarities—his characteristic devotion to his boys, his great tenderness of heart and his love of the *classics*. Indeed he was refined and classic in all things.

Under the tuition of Mr. Godfrey, MAJ. SUTHERLIN completed the brief record of his school history.

To call it his educational history would be a misnomer for WILLIAM T. SUTHERLIN was a close student to the last year of his life. What he may have lacked in mere book learning he more than supplemented by observation and reflection. This, however, more properly belongs to an analysis of his character, which will be given later on, and we return to the narrative of his life.

Until he was twenty-one years old he remained upon his father's farm doing every class of farm work and thus lald the foundation for the vast stores of practical knowledge of agriculture for which he was so pre-eminent in after years. Upon reaching his majority he became a leaf tobacco dealer in Danville, and such was his capacity and energy that long before the civil war he had amassed a handsome fortune, and become one of the most prominent citizens of his town and section.

On the 18th October, 1849, in Greensboro, N. C., MAJOR

Sutherlin was united in marriage with Jane E. Patrick, the daughter of Wm. and Martha W. Patrick. Two children were born to them, Janie Lindsey and Martha Ella. The last named died in infancy. The former grew up to be a beautiful and accomplished woman, whose lovely Christian character endeared her to every one who knew her. She was united in marriage Nov. 22nd, 1871, with Col. Francis L. Smith, of Alexandria, Va., and died in this city August 24th, 1876. Their only living child, Miss Janie Sutherlin Smith, has ever made her home with her grand-parents in this city.

Such is a mere outline of the childhood, youth and early manhood of one who for forty years afterwards was destined to fill so large a place in business, both private and public, and whose power for good was made manifest, in so many relations touching his section and State.

CHAPTER II.

The public life of Major Sutherlin properly begins with his election as Mayor of the town of Danville, in the year 1855, although he had held the office of Alderman and had been President of the Board as early as the year 1851. That his administration was acceptable to the people of Danville is proven by the fact that he held the office for six years, and only resigned it to serve his people and his State in a position requiring the greatest sagacity and patriotism. We refer to his election as a member of the historic Virginia Con-

vention of 1861. While the proceedings of that body have passed into history we may confidently state that never before with perhaps the solitary exception of the Convention of 1829, was so much ability represented as on that occasion. From beyond the Alleghanies came Carlisle Geo. W. Summers and W. T. Willey. The Valley sent Jno. B. Baldwin and A. H. H. Stuart. From Tidewater, Robt. L. Montague. From Albemarle William C. Rives. From Culpeper, Jas. B. Barbour. In fact every section of the State seemed to vie with each other in sending its brainiest sons to this mighty assembly of intellectual giants. That WILLIAM T. SUTHERLIN, along with William M. Tredway should have been chosen to represent the town of Danville and Pittsylvania county in such an assembly is all the proof that is necessary that both were recognized as men of the very highest ability.

It is proper at this point to state that previous to the late war MAJ. SUTHERLIN was an influential member as well as a prominet leader in that grand organization, the Old Line Whig party, whose ranks furnished many of the greatest and purest men the Union has yet known. In Virginia alone, to say nothing of Clay and Webster from Kentucky and from Massachusetts, there was a constellation of talent of the very first magnitude. It is a matter of history that the Whig party as an organization was opposed to secession, and only countenanced it at last as a dernier resort. In the calm light of dispassionate history who will deny they were right? Nor can it be gainsaid, that in the great debates

which necessarily ensued on this question in the State Convention that they had the best of the argument.

Hon. William M. Tredway, Major Sutherlin's colleague in the State Convention, was a Douglas Democrat, and held the same opinion in regard to the dissolution of the Union. They both contended in their speeches that the mere election and inauguration of Mr. Lincoln without any overt act, and with the express declaration on his part, that he did not intend to interfere with the rights of the States, did not justify Virginia in leaving the Union, nor do we think it will be disputed, that had the President made no attempt to coerce the States which had already seceded, Virginia would have ever left the Union. But when Mr. Lincoln issued his celebrated proclamation, calling upon Virginia to furnish seventy-five thousand troops to assist in forcing her sister Southern States back into the Union, there was no longer any hope or expectation, that the Convention would be prevented from passing the ordinance of secession. Nor was it otherwise.

The patriots in that Convention , Democratic as well as Whig, who had made so many concessions in order to save the Union, who had endorsed the Peace Conference held in Washington the same year, were if anything more outraged than the original secessionists themselves. No one who ever knew how ardently Major Sutherlin loved his native State, would doubt for a moment how he would act in such a crisis in her history. He at once followed her for weal or for woe, and voted for, and signed the Ordinance of Secession, a copy of which is now in the possession of his

family, signed in a clear bold hand by himself as well as his colleague.

No portion of Major Sutherlin's varied career is more honorable to himself than his membership of this Convention. Brought into close contact, as well as collision, with the ablest minds of Ante-Bellum Virginia, he not only held his own, but left that body, as subsequent events will show, with the reputation of being one of Virginia's ablest and most patriotic sons.

CHAPTER III.

As might be anticipated, the talents of the subject of this memoir were better adapted to civil and political life than war. But that he would throw himself, heart and soul, into the cause of his State, no one could doubt. And so the sequel proved. He at once entered the Confederate States army, but impaired health prevented his taking an active part in the field, and he was appointed Major and Quarter-Master, being stationed at the post of Danville, where he served until the close of the war. He displayed his usual activity and energy in gathering and forwarding supplies to the army, and was frequently highly commended for his work, by Gen. Lee, and others of his superior officers. Nor must it be omitted that while he was so prompt and energetic in trying to prevent the pangs of hunger and cold from dispiriting the Confederate soldier in the field, he was no

less concerned as to his spiritual condition when wounded and sick in the hospital, for out of his own purse, he employed Rev. J. H. Forbes, of Danville, for nearly three years, at an expense of fifty dollars per month, to care for all such in the hospitals of his own town. And thus was he employed in furnishing not only the sinews of war (for such are food and clothing as well as money) but in affording consolation to the sick and dying, until the end came. But before it came, the home of MAJOR SUTHERLIN on Main street, Danville, Va., was destined to become historic, and to be associated in the most pathetic manner with the closing hours of the "Lost Cause." How this came to be so, is a matter of so much interest that we cannot in justice to MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S memory be content with anything less than a full statement of all the facts in the case. As every student of history knows, when Richmond fell, the seat of the Confederate government was speedily transferred to Danville.

During its continuance in this city, Mr. Davis made his headquarters at the home of MAJOR SUTHERLIN, but why he did so and what transpired while he was there can best be told in MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S own words, written by special request of the Richmond *Dispatch*, a few months before his death. They are as follows:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DISPATCH:—In response to your telegram of yesterday requesting me to furnish you a personal reminiscence of Jefferson Davis, I send you the following:

It was generally understood here on the 2nd of April, 1865, that Richmond was to be evacuated by the Confederate government at once, and that the next headquarters would

be established at Danville. Early in the day of the 3rd, large numbers of people in Danville and the surrounding country commenced assembling at the Richmond and Danville depot to witness the arrival of the President, his Cabinet, and in fact the Government. Soon after noon the train arrived and a great throng of people pressed forward to see the President and his associates as they left the train. I met Mr. Davis with some friends and brought him directly to my house, with Mr. Geo. W. Trenholm, Secretary of the Treasury, and his wife, and Mr. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, and some others, and they remained with me some eight or nine days. President Davis seemed a little careworn, but in other respects looked as well as usual. A few days after his arrival he selected a building and had offices fitted up for himself and other departments of the government, but at the solicitation of my wife and myself he decided to remain with us during his stay in Danville, which he did.

I was at that time in feeble health, which necessitated the spending of most of my time in the house. This gave me a fine opportunity of being with Mr. Davis most of the time while here, and finding him a most agreeable and entertaining visitor, conversed with him upon quite a variety of subjects. He recounted many of the incidents connected with his departure from Richmond—seemed to have formed a great attachment for the people of that city, and was greatly distressed at having to leave them exposed to the enemy. For the first day or too he could talk of little else than the people of that city and their uniformly kind consideration of himself and family while there. He had strong hopes that General Lee would be able to reach Danville with his army and often spoke of the great confidence he had in his ability as a commander and his great admiration and love for him as a man. Being with Mr. Davis much of the time, and becoming better acquainted with him, I ventured to ask him a great many questions, which he most cheerfully answered, and being anxious to know his views in reference to all the matters relating to the

causes and progress of the war, etc., I inquired if he did not think the war could have been averted. He said that was a question which in time past had given him a great deal of concern. I told him that as he was a member of the Senate of the United States and had been for a long time connected with the Government of the United States, I would be glad if he would give me his views in reference to the question I had propounded to him.

Mr Davis said the differences that were existing between the North and the South were of long standing, and he had hoped the Missouri compromise would have given permanent satisfaction to the country. but the leading Abolitionists of the North continued to agitate the question, and they were met in debate and otherwise by the extreme representatives of the South, and in this way these differences were continually before the people until Mr. Douglas finally submitted his proposition of "squatter sovereignty," which was to give to the people of each Territory the right to decide for themselves whether slavery should be established or not when the Territory was admitted as a State. He said for a time this seemed to quiet the country, but it served also as a means of continued agitation of the question of slavery, and the extreme men of the North, in and out of Congress, seemed determined to continue the agitation of the question, and the conservative men of both sections were unable to pacify or control the extremists.

He said he had great attachment for the Union, and disliked very much the idea of its dissolution, and did all in his power to avert it. He even remained in his seat after many of the Southern Senators had left and returned to their homes, until his own State (Mississippi) had passed the ordinance of secession. When this was done he gave up all hope, resigned his seat in the Senate of the United States, and returned to his home and united his fortune with that of the Southern people. Having done this, his greatest desire and ambition was to see the Southern people united and happy under a government of their own choice.

This conversation induced me to ask him the question,

what he thought of secession, and if the State had the right to secede, and if there was any doubt in his mind as to the right of secession, and if a doubt upon this question had anything to do with his adopting that mode of redress earlier. He said he had always believed in the rights of the States and their absolute right to withdraw from the government whenever the Government of the United States sought to injure rather than protect them. I asked him to tell me in what he considered that right existed. He said, "when the Government of the United States was formed the rights of the States that were not surrendered at that time were reserved, and the States never surrendered the rights of self-preservation, and when in the judgment of the people it became necessary secession was their right. I never had any doubt upon this question, and it had no influence upon me whatever in making me slow in leaving the Union, but I was slow to leave the Union because I was attached to it—because I believed that if we could live in peace the people of the country would be better off by the Union as it was than by a division."

"Well, then, Mr. President," I remarked further, "if this be your opinion you do not, of course, think yourself and other citizens of the South who engaged in the war are rebels."

"I know that we are not rebels," Mr. Davis replied. "I know that not only myself, but that every southern man who is engaged in this war had a right to do so in defence of the rights of the State and the people."

"Mr. President, I would like to know your opinion of the war. Do you think anything could have been done that was not done that could have secured success?"

"I think under all the circumstances we have done the best we could. The enemy had access to the world from which to supply men, arms, and supplies; while we were shut in and were only overcome by overwhelming numbers. I often discuss the matter in my own mind as to the propriety of taking boys and young men under serviceable age, whose enthusiasm might have been of service in the army,

but, as I have said before, I could not take these young men into the army; that it was too much like grinding seed-corn, and in any event they were the chief hope of the country in the future."

"Mr. President, I have heard it said that there were offers of compromise made, and that Mr. Lincoln offered to pay $300 per head to slave owners for their slaves if they would lay down their arms and terminate the war. Will you please tell me something about this?"

"No such offer was ever made to me, and I had no authority under the Constitution, or by any act of Congress, or by the people to negotiate any terms of peace except upon the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, and could not, nor never would, have entertained, myself, any proposition of peace on any other basis."

Mr. Davis gave me a very interesting narrative of the Mexican war; of the various conflict of arms in which he was engaged, and especially that of Buena Vista. He seemed quite familiar with the climate, soil, and products of that country, and his description of them in detail was very interesting. I inquired of him about his farming in Mississippi, and he seemed very much interested in cotton-planting and other crops. His description of his farm products, stock, horses, cattle, hogs, and even his fowls was to me exceedingly interesting. He expressed great fondness for fine horses, and seemed perfectly familiar with all the breeds of horses as well as all other stock. In speaking of his fowls he expressed great preference for the game chicken, and said that the time spent upon his farm were the happiest days of his life.

President Davis was not only an exceedingly pleasant and agreeable visitor, but one of the best conversationalists that I ever met. He was well informed upon all subjects and possessed a clear, forcible, and attractive mode of expressing himself. During the period of some eight or nine days that Mr. Davis was at my house he never at any time within my hearing expressed any concern for himself, but his whole heart and soul seemed to be absorbed in his feeling for the

people of the South, and I believe he would have cheerfully laid down his life at any time if it would have saved them from defeat.

I might have written much more, but fear you may not have space for a longer contribution.

Respectfully yours,

DANVILLE, VA., May 30, 1893. W. T. SUTHERLIN.

When the war closed the South presented a scene of desolation, indeed, not only had she been drained of rivers of blood and millions of money, but even her property values that remained had been so depreciated as to be hardly salable at twenty-five cents in the dollar. Miles of her railways had been torn up, their bridges burnt, while grass was growing in the road-beds, of what remained. The negroes, newly emancipated, forsook the farms and flocked to the cities. The situation of the South was appalling as to the present, while the future seemed to contain no promise of better times. Many Southern people despaired of the Republic, and thought of migrating to other lands. Agents were sent to Mexico and South America to look at the country and select localities suitable for Southern colonies. The scheme was favored by some of the most prominent of Virginia's sons, including Prof M. F. Maury, Gen. J. A. Early, and others. Not so, however, with MAJOR SUTHERLIN. By his voice, by his pen he opposed the scheme. Never did his masterful common-sense display its power more than at this juncture. He contended that Virginia, even with all the horrors of Reconstruction saddled upon her, was the best place upon earth for Virginians. "Work" work" he said was the one thing needful. He took his own prescription.

As soon as he had regained his health, which had been greatly impaired, he began farming, not only on a large scale, but using all the improved methods for so doing. His energy was contagious. His people felt its inspiring influence, and in less than five years after the war, his whole section seemed to have risen Phœnix-like, from the very ashes of despair. That such a man as this would be permitted to pursue the even tenor of his own way, without interruption was impossible. That he, who had always shown so much public spirit would decline to serve his people when called upon, was also out of the question. As an evidence of his willingness at all times to do all that lay in his power to advance the interests of Danville, and the surrounding country, we need only to refer to the fact that he was the originator and promoter of the Border Agricultural Society, and was its President for two years. The address delivered by him on that occasion will be seen along with other addresses on various subjects in the appendix to this volume. But while he was devoting his talents to the service of his State along industrial lines, and trying to build up her material interests, at the same time in concert with eight others, he rendered Virginia a service which should never be forgotten. The work done by this famous committee has passed into history already as one of the great factors in determining the future political condition of the State. But as Major Sutherlin's good sense, and sagacity were so conspicuously displayed in its formation, line of procedure and complete success, a re-statement of the causes which induced him to do so will not be amiss. At

the time of its formation, Virginia was threatened with absolute ruin. The Underwood Constitution framed and passed by the infamous Underwood Convention, so full of atrocious features, and test oaths, as to virtually turn the whole State over to scalawags, carpet-baggers, and negroes, had already passed the House of Representatives and was in the hands of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The situation was alarming.

A public meeting was held in Richmond composed of representative men from different parts of the State. At this meeting MAJOR SUTHERLIN and eight others were appointed a Committee of Nine to go to Washington to prevent the passage of the bill, through the Senate.

By sheer force of ability, and the justice of their cause, they prevailed, and Virginia was saved. For such services as were rendered by the nine men composing this committee, the Roman Republic would have perpetuated their names forever. But MAJOR SUTHERLIN was not given to complaining, and the fact that he had rendered such a signal service to his State was a reflection more pleasing to him, than outward honors. But as we have already shown, MAJOR SUTHERLIN long before the Committee of Nine had an existence, was one of the foremost men in Virginia, in trying to place the State on a secure footing in the Union. In the summer of 1868, Gen. W. S. Rosencrans, a noted Federal general, who was sojourning at the White Sulphur Springs was so much impressed with the then chaotic condition of affairs in Virginia, that he addressed the following open letter to Gen. R. E. Lee :

White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, Aug. 26, 1868.

General.—Full of solicitude for the future of our country, I come with my heart and hand, to learn the condition, wishes and intentions of the people of the Southern States—especially to ascertain the sentiments of that body of grave, energetic self-sacrificing men, who, after sustaining the Confederacy for four years, laid down their arms and swore allegiance to the Government of the United States, whose trusted and beloved leader you have been.

I see that interpreting "State's right" to conflict with national unity has produced a violent reaction against them, which is drifting us towards consolidation; and, also, that so great a country as ours even now is, certainly is to be, must have State governments to attend to local details, or go farther and fare worse.

It is plain to us at the West and North that the continuance of semi-anarchy, such as has existed for the last three years in ten States of our Union, largely increases the danger of centralization, swells our national expenditures, diminishes our productions and our revenue, inspires doubts of our political and financial stability, depreciates the value of our national bonds and currency, and places the credit of the richest below that of the poorest nation in Christendom.

We know that our currency must be depreciated so long as our bonds are below par; and, that, therefore, the vast business and commerce of our country must suffer the terrible evil of a fluctuating standard of value, until we can remedy the evil condition of things at the South. We also see other mischief quite possible if not probable to arise; such as from a failure of crops, a local insurrection, and many other unforseen contingencies, which may still more depreciate our credit and currency, provoke discontent and disorder among our people, and bring demagogical agitation, revolution, repudiation, and a thousand unnamed evils and villainies upon us. We know that the interest of the people of the South are for law and order, and that they must share our fate of good and ill.

I believe—every one, I know, who reflects, believes—that

if the people of the Southern States could be at peace, and their energy and good-will heartily applied to repair the wastes of war, reorganize their business, set the freedmen peacefully, prosperously and contentedly at work, invite capital, enterprise and labor elsewhere to come freely amongst them, they would rebuild their ruined fortunes, multiply manifold the value of their lands, establish public confidence in our political stability, bring our government bonds to premium, our currency to a gold standard and assure for themselves and the whole nation a most happy and prosperous future. Seeing this, and how all just interests concur in the work, I ask the officers and soldiers who fought for the Union—every thinking man of the great West and North asks—why it cannot be done.

We are told by those who have controlled the Government for the last four years that the people of the South will not do it; that if ever done at all, it must be done by the poor, simple, uneducated, landless freedmen and the few whites who, against the public opinion and sentiment of the intelligent white people, are willing to attempt to lead and make their living of the ignorant, unexperienced colored people, mostly men who must be needy adventurers or without any of those attributes on which reliance for good guidance or government can be placed. We are told that this kind of Government must be continued at the South until six or eight millions of intelligent, energetic white people give into it, or move out of the country.

Now, I think, the Union army thinks, and the people of the North and West, I dare say, believe there must be, or there ought to be, a shorter and surer way to get good government for all at the South.

We know that they who organized and sustained the Southern Confederacy for four years against gigantic efforts, ought to be able to give peace, law, order, and protection to the whole people of the South.

They have the interest and power to employ, protect, educate, and elevate the poor freedmen, and to restore themselves and our country to all the blessings of which I have

just spoken. The question we want answered is—"Are they willing to do it?"

I came down to find out what the people of the South think of this, and to ask you what the officers and soldiers who served in the Confederate army, and the leading people who sustained it, think of these things.

I came to ask more. I want to ask you, in whose purity and patriotism I here express unqualified confidence, and so many good men as you can conveniently consult, to say what you think of it, and also what you are willing to do about it. I want a written expression of views that can be followed by a concurrence of action. I want to know if you and the gentlemen who will join you in that written expression are willing to pledge the people of the South to a chivalrous and magnanimous devotion to restoring peace and prosperity to our common country. I want to carry that pledge high above the level of party politics, to the late officers and soldiers of the Union army, and the people of the North and West, and to ask them to consider it, and to take the necessary action, confident that it will meet with a response so warm, so generous and confiding that we shall see in its sunshine the rainbow of peace in our political sky, now black with clouds and impending storm.

I know you are a representative man—in reverence and regard for the Union, the Constitution and the welfare of the country, and that what you would say would be endorsed by nine-tenths of the whole people of the South; but I should like to have the signatures of all the representative Southern men here who would concur in your views, and expressions of their concurrence from the principal officers and representative men throughout the South, when they can be procurred.

This concurrence of opinions and wills, all tending to peace, order, and stability, will assure our Union soldiers and business men—who want substantial and solid peace—and cause them to rise above the level of party politics, and

take such steps to meet yours as will insure a lasting peace, with all its countless blessings.

Very truly your friend,

W. S. ROSECRANS.

Gen. R. E. Lee, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

The reply of Gen. Lee to this letter shows in what light MAJOR SUTHERLIN was regarded by him, as well as others. Gen. Lee knew MAJOR SUTHERLIN personally, having come in contact with him frequently during the war in the latter's capacity, as one of the Confederate Quarter-Masters. The reply was as follows :

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WEST VIRGINIA, Aug. 26, 1868.

GENERAL.—I have had the honor to receive your letter of this date, and in accordance with your suggestions I have conferred with a number of gentlemen from the South in whose judgment I have confided, and who are well acquainted with the public sentiment of their respective States. They have kindly consented to unite with me in replying to your communication, and their names will be found with my own appended to this answer. With this explanation, we proceed to give you a candid statement of what we believe to be the sentiment of the Southern people in regard to the subject to which you refer.

Whatever opinions may have prevailed in the past in regard to African slavery or the right of a State to secede from the Union, we believe we express the almost unanimous judgment of the Southern people when we declare that they consider that those questions were decided by the war, and that it is their intention in good faith to abide by that decision. At the close of the war, the Southern people laid down their arms and sought to resume their former relations with the United States Government. Through their State Conventions they abolished slavery and annulled their ordinances of secession, and they returned to their peaceful

pursuits with a sincere purpose to fulfill all their duties under the constitution of the United States, which they had sworn to support. If their action in these particulars had been met in a spirit of frankness and cordiality, we believe that ere this, old irritations would have passed away, and the wounds inflicted by the war would have been in a great measure healed. As far as we are advised, the people of the South entertain no unfriendly feeling towards the Government of the United States, but they complain that their rights under the Constitution are withheld under the administration thereof.

The idea that the Southern people are hostile to the negroes, and would oppress them if it were in their power to do so, is entirely unfounded. They have grown up in our midst, and we have been accustomed from childhood to look upon them with kindness. The change in the relations of the two races has wrought no change in our feeling towards them. They still constitute the important part of our laboring population. Without their labor the lands of the South would be comparatively unproductive. Without the employment which Southern agriculture affords they would be destitute of the means of subsistence, and become paupers, dependent upon public bounty. Self-interest, even if there were no higher motive, would therefore prompt the whites of the South to extend to the negroes care and protection.

The important fact that the two races are, under existing circumstances, necessary to each other, is gradually becoming apparent to both, and we believe that but for the influence exerted to stir up the passions of the negroes the relations of the two races would soon adjust themselves on a basis of mutual kindness and advantage.

It is true that the people of the South, together with the people of the North and West, are, for obvious reasons opposed to any system of laws which will place the political power of the country in the hands of the negro race. But the opposition springs from no feeling of enmity, but from a deep-seated conviction that at present the negroes have neither the intelligence nor the qualifications which

are necessary to make them safe depositories of political power. They would inevitably become the victim of demagogues, who for selfish purposes would mislead them, to the serious injury of the public.

The great want of the South is peace. The people earnestly desire tranquility and the restoration af the Union. They deprecate disorder and excitement as the most serious obstacle to their prosperty. They ask a restoration of their rights under the constitution. They desire relief from oppressive misrule. Above all, they look to their countrymen for the establishment in the Southern States of that which has justly been regarded as the birthright of every American—the right of self government. Establish these on a firm basis, and we can safely promise on behalf of the Southern people that they will faithfully obey the Constitution and laws of the United States, treat the negro with kindness and humanity, and fulfil every duty incumbent on peaceful citizens loyal to the Constitution of their country.

We believe the above contains a succinct reply to the general topics embraced in your letter, and we venture to say in behalf of the Southern people and of the officers and soldiers of the Confederate army, that they will concur in all the sentiments which we have expressed.

Approaching the patriotic motives which have prompted your letter, and reciprocating your expressions of kind regard, we have the honor to be,

Very respectfully and truly,

R. E. Lee, of Va., G. T. Beauregard, La., Alex. H. Stephens, Ga., A. H. H Stuart, Va., C. M. Conrad, La., Linton Stephens, Ga, A. T. Caperton, W. Va., John Echols, Va., F. S. Stockdale, Texas, F. W. Pickens, S. C., Wm. J. Robertson, Va, Jos. R Anderson, Va., Wm. F. Turner, W. Va., C. H. Suber, S. C., E. Fontaine, Va. Jon Letcher, Va., R. C. Adams, Miss., W. J. Green, N. C., Lewis E. Harvie, Va., W. T. Sutherlin, Va., P. V Daniel, Jr., Va., A. B. James, La., T. Buregard Texas, M. O. H. Norton, La, T. P. Branch, Ga.,

H. T. Russell, Ga., Sam'l J. Douglas, Fla., Jeremiah Morton, Va., John B. Baldwin, Va., Geo. W. Bolling, Va., Thos. S. Flournoy, Va., James Lyons, Va.

To Gen. W. S. Rosecrans, Minister to Mexico, White Sulphur Springs, West Va.

CHAPTER IV.

It has already been seen that MAJOR SUTHERLIN was always willing to serve his people, but he believed the office should seek the man, and not the man the office. In consequence of this feeling and opinion he never tried conclusions with political hustlers. He was called upon in 1871 to serve his people in the Legislature, and while there signalized himself in his efforts to create an Agricultural College in which he was eminently successful as the college at Blacksburg, now in full operation, attest.

When the Virginia Agricultural Society was organized MAJOR SUTHERLIN was elected its President and held this office for two years. Upon the creation of the Virginia State Board of Agriculture he was made its President, and held this office at the time of his death. Of his services to the State in that relation his confreres upon the Board will attest upon another page of this memoir.

There are some men whose intellects seem to find happiness alone in colossal labor in many different spheres at the same time. MAJOR SATHERLIN was one of these. No man perhaps in Virginia ever was employed in so many gigantic enterprises at the same time as he, and came out of them all

with flying colors. To enumerate them all and describe the parts minutely, taken by him, would swell this volume to unwonted proportions. And so we must content ourselves with an enumeration of his most striking efforts and enterprises. That he was an able financier, was exemplified by every financial transaction of his entire life, from the first trip he took South with a two-horse load of manufactured tobacco, when he was a mere youth, and upon which he cleared $700.00, down to his last business transaction. Failure was never written on anything he undertook. He was the organizer of the old bank of Danville, having gotten up the stock, much of which stood in his own name and was its President. He also organized the Border Grange Bank of Danville, and was its first President, and in consequence he was one of the best posted men of Virginia, concerning the operation of State banks, and his speeches in advocacy of the same were lucid and powerful. And we may add here that his speech on the benefits arising on State banks delivered at the request of a large number of influential citizens of Pittsylvania at Chatham in June 1893, created a profound impression on its favor, the leading papers commenting upon it favorably, while petitions came from other sections of the State, asking for its repetition, among which was one from Bedford county, so numerously signed that he had agreed to address the citizens of that county at a date only a few days after his death.

As a railroad builder and organizer also, Major Sutherlin signalized his career. It will be remembered that during the late war no road in the State suffered so much as the

Richmond & Danville. It was the one great thoroughfare between the Army of Lee and the South. In consequence its rolling stock was subjected to the most continuous wear and tear of any other line. At the close of the war it was literally "run down," and was even threatened with confiscation by the United States Government. At this critical juncture in its history MAJOR SUTHERLIN became one of its Board of Directors, and for thirteen years was a leader in its developments, and it is a matter of record that his sagacity and foresightedness had much to do with bringing it from the wreck in which the war had left it and placing it in a position to become the great highway it is.

Scarcely however, had he accomplished this mammoth undertaking before he was called upon to undertake a similar, and even more difficult enterprise—the building of the Milton & Sutherlin Road—a branch of the R. & D., extending from Sutherlin Station, in Halifax county, to Milton, N. C. But as if there could be no rest for such a man as WILLIAM T. SUTHERLIN, the cross-ties on the last named road had hardly become seasoned before he was urged to undertake the completion of an independent line extending westward from Danville, and now known as the Danville & Western. He did so and it was agreed on all sides that in building this road MAJOR SUTHERLIN overcame difficulties and obstacles that no other man could have done at that time.

During all these busy years, requiring the energies it would seem of a dozen able men, MAJOR SUTHERLIN was called upon to serve the Democratic party as a member of

the State Executive Committee, and although we know that "Honor's voice cannot provoke the silent dust, nor flattery soothe the dull cold ear of death,"—yet, simple justice requires one who would truly write his life to say, that no party ever had one more competent to advise it, to outline its policy, and map out its program of action than MAJOR SUTHERLIN. When the factions of the Democratic party in May 1892 were ready to rend the organization to pieces on account of rival candidates for the Presidency, the voice of MAJOR SUTRERLIN was for compromise and peace in the great Democratic family and it prevailed. But a whole chapter on this phase alone of his career, could be written, showing that he was equal to almost any emergency that could arise.

Having so far in a cursory manner given an outline of MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S public career, it is now time to turn attention to his own beloved home—the city of Danville, where monuments of his goodness and munificence abound, where his whole life was spent; where he reared his family; served his God, and at last sleeps with his fathers.

CHAPTER V.

A knowledge of the home life of any one who has left an impression upon the age in which he lived is always of surpassing interest, and no biography is complete without it. When we say home life, we do not mean the petty details of domesticity, but home surroundings, home activities and

home achievements in a larger sense. And we may say that no one was ever more entitled to call his whole city his home, than MAJOR SUTHERLIN. Danville was to him the apple of his eye; the city of his love. With an almost eastern devotion, he knelt at the shrine of her idolatry. There was never a time from early manhood, to old age, that he did not strive for her interests, and try to promote her welfare.

We have already briefly alluded to some of the enterprises inaugurated by him before, and since the war. In this chapter dealing almost exclusively with his career as a citizen of Danville, we feel warranted in speaking more at length, concerning home affairs.

Any one who is so fortunate as to possess a file of a Danville newspaper published before the war, will not fail to notice in perusing it that in every enterprise of those days of any significance, the name of WILLIAM T. SUTHERLIN is prominent, either as President, Committee-man, or Director, thus showing his public spirit and the estimation in which he was held by his fellow-citizens.

No enterprise, we dare say before the war, when Danville was struggling for a foot-hold in the financial world ever elicited more interest than the establishment of a bank, and the part undertaken by MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN, can best be told by those who were living at that time, and who were familiar with all the facts in the case. From the Danville *Register* and Milton *Chronicle* of June the 10th, 1858, we make the following extracts:

It will hardly be believed that the stock in the Danville

Bank, chartered by the Legislature of Virginia only a few weeks ago, has all been taken thus soon. Such, however, is the fact. And it is truly astonishing, when we consider the cry of hard times. But what is there in the power of mortal man, that WM T. SUTHERLIN, ESQ., of Danville cannot accomplish when he wills the undertaking? To him, we learn, is the institution indebted for almost every dollar's worth of stock obtained. But few, if any one besides himself, deemed it possible to get half the stock taken, in view of the financial pressure; and we believe that all the other Commissioners, despairing of success even before they made a trial, left the whole matter to his hands, To work he went, and almost before the members of the Legislature that chartered the Bank, return home and get warm in their seats, MR. SUTHERLIN gets $2000 worth of stock taken more than is needed. Extraordinary man, truly! The word "fail," is not in his vocabulary. Ye croakers, on whose lips dwell the word "can't," see what energy and perseverance will do!

We learn that nearly two-thirds of the stock was taken in the county.—*Milton Chronicle.*

From *News and Advertiser:*

On Thursday, the 10th inst, the Commissioners of the "Bank of Danville" met at the Masonic Hall, when it was ascertained that $130,000 had been subscribed, ten per cent on this amount was promptly paid, whereupon the Stockholders assembled, and proceeded to organize by appointing Robt. Lawson, Esq., of Rockingham, N. C., to the chair, and Dr. N. Roane and Robt. Richardson, Esq., of North Carolina, Secretary.

The following gentlemen were then elected Directors for the ensuing year to wit: W. T. Sutherlin, Levi Holbrook, Jno. O. Glass, W. P. Graves and S. H. Holland. The Board of Directors then elected W. T. Sutherlin, President of the Bank.

A large number of the Stockholders paid the whole amount of their subscriptions: others paid forty, fifty and sixty per cent, it having been determined to pay interest on advance

payments, and charge interest on delinquents. The whole stock however, is required to be paid within six months from the 10th June, 1858.

We only bestow a simple of justice in stating that W. T. SUTHERLIN, ESQ., was voted for as Director by every Stockholder except himself, and the votes of every director were given him for President except his own. This remarkable token of appreciation, was more than won by MR. SUTHERLIN in his strenuous and untiring exertions in securing the new Bank, from the first start of the enterprise until its organization.

We have heretoforere frained from any commendtoary remarks of MR. SUTHERLIN in regard to his services in this matter, fearing that prejudice might unfortunately grow out of it to the injury of the cause or the disparagement of the gentleman. The feeling of the public has now been expressed by the unanimous voice of all that are interested, and well and properly may we congratulate our worthy and esteemed townsman on his success both in accomplishing good for the public and in ascending to the pinnacle of popularity. Those who are best acquainted with WM. T. SUTHERLIN know that the ruling element in his nature is to do good—it is his ambition to raise his community to the highest standard of moral and political worth, and bestow upon his fellow-man such blessings as it becomes the hand of mortal to dispense. "The laborer is worthy of his hire." Hence we see the poor young SUTHERLIN a few years back, treading the path that leads upward and onward, now seemingly the favorite of fortune and the honored of fame. There is a great and valuable lesson to be learned in this man's progress, and if we are personal in speaking of him we must be pardoned. It must be spoken of. Every public work that Danville can boast of speaks in his praise, and the present prosperity of our town emanated to a great extent from the influence and energy of MR. SUTHERLIN .

The Bank of Danville is in good hands, and we bespeak for it a prosperous career.

From the Danville *Register:*

We have all along been well aware that the establishment of the Bank of Danville would be due alone to the exertions of this gentleman. When the Bank bill passed the Legislature, there was no one else in this town or vicinity bold enough, in view of the disastrous financial pressure and the general prostration of credit, to lay hold of the project and take an active agency in procuring subscriptions to the capital stock. We have from the very first believed that the scheme would be crowned with success, and so we have expressed ourselves; but the majority of the persons in this community, and especially the monied men, thought differently. We based our belief upon the known energy, self-confidence and untiring zeal of W. T. SUTHERLIN.

We have, from good and obvious reasons, heretofore refrained from rendering this gentleman the just and merited congratulation due to his success in the establishment of the Bank. The Stockholders have fully appreciated the service. In the election of Directors last Thursday, MR. SUTHERLIN received every vote cast except his own; and when the Directors assembled in the afternoon to elect the President of the Bank, he again received every vote save his own. This speaks for itself, and in terms not to be misunderstood.

This is, however, not the first evidence of public spirit in the interests of Danville which MAJOR SUTHERLIN had given, as the following incident will show:

On Sunday evening, August 25th, 1850, about sundown, an accident occurred, which proved, for the time being, almost a calamity to the town, so great was the inconvenience it occasioned, but which resulted—as similar accidents are in the habit of doing—in direct and permanent advantage to the locality, by causing a much needed deficiency to be promptly supplied. The old wooden wagon and foot bridge, which was supposed to have been erected about seventy

years previously, and had long been in a dilapidated and unsafe condition, was washed away by the river, which had become an angry torrent during a storm of unprecedented length and violence. No other bridge spanned the river at that time except the railroad viaduct of the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, and this was useless for the purpose of general traffic. The old ford was therefore resorted to once more, as affording the only remaining means of communication between the opposite banks of the Dan, and even this was available only at such times as the river was free from freshets.

Something must be done, and that quickly, to repair the loss, as it was evident that the trade of the town would otherwise suffer seriously. Major Sutherlin, then largely engaged in the manufacture of tobacco and other local enterprises, came to the rescue in this emergency, with the public spiritedness which had always distinguished him, and purchased the sight and privileges of the demolished bridge for $4,500. As soon as practicable, he secured the co-operation of Messrs. A. G. Walters, Francis Williams, Daniel McLaughlin, J. W. Pace, Wm. R. McCoy and Sanders Slate, and these gentlemen together built another bridge in 1851 at a cost of about $12,000—Mr. Daniel McLaughlin doing the stone work of the piers, and Messrs. Joseph Yarbrough and Dabney Terry adding the wooden superstructure. The bridge was sold to the City Council and the Virginia Midland Railroad Company, jointly, in 1873, for $20,000, and thrown open to the public as a Free Bridge.

Major Sutherlin was ever an enthusiastic Mason, and

was one of the main promoters of the fraternity in Danville. A few facts in regard to the establishment of the Order, will show the prominent part taken by him in this matter.

The same year that saw the completion of the bridge across the Danville rapids, 1851, witnessed also the commencement of the Masonic Temple, on the corner of Main and Union streets—still a handsome and imposing structure, and at the time of the erection, the finest building in the town. A few enterprising members of the Roman Eagle Lodge, A. F. & A. M., determined to have a new hall, if vigorous united effort could accomplish that desirable end. The Lodge owned a lot on Craghead Street in the rear of Banner Warehouse, with a building on it which at that time was used as a Court House. This lot was sold for $2,000, and a Committee of Ways and Means appointed, consisting of the Rev. Geo. W. Dame, D. D., Worshipful Master; Dr. Thos. P. Atkinson, Senior Warden, and Wm. Sutherlin, Junior Warden. With the aid of a few subscriptions on the part of those citizens interested in Main Street and Union Street property, these gentlemen purchased the corner lot and erected the Temple at a total cost of $13,000, without calling upon any member of the Lodge to contribute as much as one cent. With the revenues of the Hall and the three fine stores which occupy the first floor the debt has been paid off and the value of the property to-day is estimated at $15,000.

But as a convincing proof of the aid he not only then, but at all other times rendered the Lodge, the following letter copied from the *Record*, fully attests:

Office of Secretary, Eagle Lodge, No. 122, A. F. and A. M., Chartered Dec. 13th, 1820, A. D., 1820.

At the regular stated Communication of Roman Eagle Lodge, No. 152, A. F. and A. M., held in the Masonic Temple, Danville, Va., July 13th, 1879, A. L.. 5879, the following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted: In view of his valuable services rendered to this Lodge in times past, and when Masonry was in its infancy in this community, and desiring to show some expression of appreciation of the labors of our esteemed brother, especially so, as there has never appeared upon our Records, any recognition of the same. Therefore be it

Resolved, That whatever dues are now standing against Bro. W. T. Sutherlin, be, and the same are hereby remitted, and

Second, That no annual dues be hereafter charged to him.

Third, That the Secretary be instructed to furnish Bro. Sutherlin with a copy of this Preamble and Resolutions.

It is well known every where that Danville's rapid growth and pre-eminence was due in the first instance to her tobacco industry. With the promoters of this industry the name of William T. Sutherlin is indissolubly linked, and at the time of his death he was the oldest member of the Tobacco Association. This primitive industry was well nigh crushed by the great panic of 1837, and it only dragged its slow length along for nearly twenty years afterwards. About this time Major Sutherlin, who had been a leaf dealer, went into the manufacturing business, and in a short time was in control of one of the largest tobacco factories in the State, with

but one exception, that of James Thomas, of Richmond. He was also the pioneer in applying steam to Hydraulic Tobacco Presses.

Along religious lines the light of MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S life shone brightly. Here, as elsewhere he was a man of affairs. When it was found that Wilson street church was too small to accommodate its membership, and a proposition either to make the church larger, or select another site, was to be decided, the judgment and generosity of MAJOR SUTHERLIN were both exercised, the one sagaciously and the other liberally. The site on which Main Street Methodist church now stands, was selected, purchased and paid for by him. In addition to all this, he was not satisfied until he had contributed several thousand dollars more to the erection of the building. Mount Vernon (Methodist), another beautiful church edifice in the immediate vicinity of his home, and in which he held his membership at the time of his death, and of which he was a Steward, felt his liberality. Education was also an engrossing theme with this public spirited man. He was not content with urging its importance with his pen and his voice, but used his means, as well as his time in promoting it. It was mainly owing to his ability, zeal and liberality that the Danville College for Young Ladeis was organized, and built, and started on its career of usefulness. Randolph Macon College also had in him a generous friend, and we know of no better way in which this can be told, than the following letter of Capt. Richard Irby, Secretary and Treasurer of the College, written to Mrs. Sutherlin, a short time after her husband's death.

Mrs. W. T. Sutherlin, Danville, Va.—DEAR MADAM :—Randolph-Macon College has good cause to keep in remembrance the name of W. T. SUTHERLIN.

At a time when it was in great need, he generously made a donation of $300 per annum for five years toward its current expenses, thus enabling it to bridge over a gulf which threatened its continuance.

About the same time, 1872, he founded the "Sutherlin Prize for Oratory." The medals given as prizes in the contest, annually held since, are now owned by some of the firrt men of letters and public life in the South.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) RICHARD IRBY,
Secretary and Treasurer.

In concluding this brief sketch of a valuable life, in which even the greater events of his career are but cursorily mentioned, leaving untouched hundreds of other things of which he was the promoter, as well as benefactor, the reader cannot fail to be impressed with the grandest feature in his character, which was usefulness. It was said of Goldsmith that he touched many things, and ornamented everything he touched. With equal propriety, it may be said of the subject of this Memoir ; that whatever he undertook was useful, and whatever he touched he improved. MAJOR SUTHERLIN, although possessing a master mind, was free from the idiosyncrasies and weaknesses that often mar the brightest geniuses. His mind did not move spasmodically, but was at all times alert and penetrating. His power of concentration was intense. "His thoughts never broke ranks," nor his ideas straggled from the line of march his mind had mapped out. For his age he was the most progressive of men.

He used the past only to read the future. His interest in current events was surpassing, and his mind like a merchant's ledger, was posted up to the very last date, with every thing going on at home and abroad. His mind was comprehensive, and was stored with a vast supply of common sense, which was the source of great ready wit, whenever occasion demanded it. As an instance of this,when the Committee of Nine met in Washington to prepare an address to "the powers that be," they had a very difficult undertaking before them. If the address should be made too plain, they were fearful of giving offense, if too obscure, they ran the risk of being misunderstood. Major Sutherlin who was a natural born diplomat solved the difficulty, by drawing up a paper, embodying the idea sought after. Two of the gentlemen on the Committee, if not more, were graduates of the University of Virginia, and one of them remarked, "Major, you have hit the idea exactly, but the grammar is incorrect." To which he instantly rejoined. "If a plain farmer like myself can furnish the idea, it certainly seems that two graduates of the University ought to be able to supply the language."

Major Sutherlin was eminently practical in his views and methods, and in the execution of his plans, he evinced the firm purpose of a determined and resolute man. Although he was a brave man, possessing the courage of his convictions, he was broad, charitable and liberal in his opinions; a cautious and sagacious counsellor. He was seldom impulsive, but was persistent, and capable of sustained effort. He was too broad to be a bigot; too intelli-

gent to be a zealot, and too rich and generous in his nature to be revengeful. He may have had, and perhaps did have enemies, but this fact could only be learned from them, as he never spoke of them in terms whose severity would reveal them. His treatment of political adversaries, was most magnanimous. He never criticised them harshly, but always paid them that measure of respect due to one whose opinions differed from his own. As a leading citizen of his section he served many from whom no return could be anticipated. He was a wise man, and in all the fierce conflicts of party war-fare "never lost his head." In debate he was powerful. and when he had fully fortified his positions, it seemed well nigh impossible to dislodge him. Like the late Governor, Jno. M. Morehead, of North Carolina, whom he resembled in many respects, the crowning feature of his life, as we have before stated, was usefulness. He was useful to the community in which he lived, useful to his county, his State, his family and his friends. As an adviser and counselor, he was pre-eminent, possessing a sound judgment, and a clear insight into human nature, whose correctness was well nigh infallible. His mind was a vast store-house of valuable information, garnered by years of close and deep reflection. All his great powers were at the service of the humblest of his friends.

In the home circle the character of MAJOR SUTHERLIN shown resplendently. He was a kind husband, a most affectionate parent, and the hospitable host.

What was said of another may be fittingly said of him. His genius for affairs made monuments in the public and

business walks of men, while his humanity made gratitudes among the poor, which will follow like angels guarding him to the tomb.

The personal appearance of MAJOR SUTHERLIN was imposing and calculated to draw attention anywhere. He was just six feet in height, and was in all respects well proportioned and symmetrical. His head, while not massive, was large, and his forehead, high, and broad, a noble dome of thought. His eyes were dark, luminous and beautiful always. His face was an index of the prevailing mood of his mind, and heart, and was written all over with the pale cast of thought. In many respects, it was remarkable. Refinement and strength are seldom united in the same face. Indeed, ruggedness and power by association have almost become synonymous. The case of MAJOR SUTHERLIN was an exception to this general rule. Every line of his strong face was toned down and softened by refinement. Indeed it may be truly said of him,

> "His life was gentle, and the elements,
> So mixed in him that nature might stand up,
> And say to all the world, This was a man."

It is with an emotion of positive pain that we approach the closing scene of such an immense career. Nor is this feeling unmixed with awe as the curtain falls, and veils forever from human sight the imposing presence of our titanic friend. It is as if a granite column had given way, which for so many years had borne like an Atlas with seeming ease such colossal responsibilities. But the fiat has gone forth. "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

He cometh forth as a flower and is cut down.
He fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not.

Major Sutherlin had shown within the past five years that old age was in some slight degree, telling on him, and periodical attacks had weakened his physical frame somewhat, but for the past year his health was good, his physical condition improved, and his giant intellect unimpaired. Only a few days before his death in speaking to a friend, of a contemplated trip to Bedford county, he said he never felt better. Thursday night, July 20th, about three o'clock, he had an attack of what the doctors at the time believed to be indigestion, due to slight trouble with the digestive organs, but what proved to be angina pectoris or organic heart disease, something near akin to, or resembling neuralgia of the heart. This seemed to pass away in a short while, and on Friday he was up.

A similar attack came on Friday night, July 21st, about the same hour, and though it was more severe than the attack of the previous night, it was not thought to be serious, and like the other, would readily yield to the physician's treatment. About 2 a. m. the Major grew much worse, and relatives and friends were sent for.

It was then he expressed the opinion that he would die, but the doctor and his wife did not think his condition was in any way critical, and indeed up to within fifteen minutes of the time of dissolution no one in the room deemed that a serious termination of the attack was probable. About a quarter to 3 o'clock the pains which had been so severe in the chest and side ceased, but it was evident that they had

done their work, and just at 3 o'clock, MAJOR SUTHERLIN, in the full possession of his intellect, with every faculty in full play and with a full knowledge of all that was going on around him, quietly, gently, peacefully closed his eyes in death.

His soul passed away as peacefully as a little child falling asleep in its mother's arms.

His death was entirely unexpected, and created a shock of sadness and surprise throughout the city. At an early hour scores of sympathising friends began calling at his residence to pay the last tribute of respect to the distinguished dead. Hundreds of telegrams of condolence from his own and adjoining States, were received during the day. A meeting of citizens was at once called by Mayor Wooding to give expression of the severe loss sustained by the people of Danville, in the death of MAJOR SUTHERLIN.

Mayor Wooding was called to the chair, and the members of the press were elected secretaries.

On taking the chair, Captain Wooding stated the object of the call of the meeting, and paid a glowing tribute to MAJOR SUTHERLIN.

Judge Green moved that a committee (the number to be fixed by the chair) be appointed to draw up suitable resolutions and present the same to the meeting for ratification.

The chair appointed the following gentlemen as said committee: Messrs. Berryman Green, J. P. Harrison, G. C. Cabell, H. W. Cole, W. E. Boisseau, J. T. Watson, Sr., J. R. Jopling, Daniel Coleman, H. A. Wiseman, J. N. Wyllie, J. M. Neal and James Wood, Sr.

After a short retirement, the committee returned and presented the following resolutions through its chairman, Judge B. Green :

WHEREAS, God in His Providence, has again suddenly summoned from our midst one of our most prominent fellow-citizens, we, the citizens of Danville, having met together in response to the call of the Mayor to give due expression to our sorrow as a community and as individuals, do humbly bow in submission to God's will, and recognizing in the death of MAJOR WILLIAM T. SUTHERLIN the loss of one whose life has been spent here, we bear testimony to the fact, that as Mayor, Alderman, and in all the various relations of public and private life, he proved himself foremost in services, the value of which will long outlive his memory, and to him we owe a debt of lasting gratitude.

We would especially emphasize his zealous labor to effect public enterprises to which our city owes much of its prosperity, and at the same time his never failing hospitality and courtesy so graciously shown to strangers in our midst at his handsome home.

Finally, we deeply deplore the death of WM. T. SUTHERLIN as a loss not only to his community, but to our State and country at a time when his counsels are needed and the benefits of his wisdom much called for.

We reverently tender to his bereaved family our sorrowing sympathy.

After the reading of the resolutions, Mr. Harrison said it gave him pleasure to second the resolutions, and he desired to lay especial weight upon one or two points of MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S character, that all present would endorse as true of him, and all might well imitate.

In the first place, as a man he possessed one crowning virtue ; he did not bear malice however vigorous and bitter the contest, and because of his prominence he was engaged in many. The speaker from observation and experience

could testify that after the fight was over, whether MAJOR SUTHERLIN was the victor or was vanquished he forgot all the bitterness, and burying the past would stand shoulder to shoulder with his recent opponent. He was a foe worthy of any man's steel, and in nothing does he deserve our praise and remembrance more than in this.

In the next place he was public spirited, and always kept open house at his hospitable home to entertain prominent people who visited Danville. In this, as a city, we shall miss him more than we would miss any other citizen. Recently when Gov. McKinney and his staff came to Danville to meet President Davis' remains, MAJOR SUTHERLIN came to the depot with his carriage and took the Governor and his staff to his house ; no one else did so. This was characteristic, and no man can tell how much in this way he did for his city. We hope there are those here upon whom his mantle may fall.

Finally, MAJOR SUTHERLIN is not only a loss to us as men and as citizens of Danville, nor even to Virginia, whose Lieutenant Governor by common acceptance he bid fair to be but for his untimely death, but to the whole country. To him, more than to any other, is due the insertion in the Democratic platform at Chicago, of the plank removing the tax upon State Banks. It was his pet scheme. I heard him expound it in his speech at Chatham, and confess I became a thorough convert. He was to have spoken by special invitation at Bedford City next Monday, on this all important topic, and was busy preparing himself for the occasion. His death at this crisis is a public loss to our whole country.

I must heartily second these resolutions. I have said this much as due to his memory, and deserving of your imitation.

After the remarks of Mr. Harrison, Mr Montague arose and said :

Mr. Chairman:

I desire to accentuate another manifestation of the admirable trait of MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S character just spoken of by Mr. Harrison.

The same generous fellowship that made the lamented dead so abound in hospitality, made him a ready and staunch friend of young men. For I do not think the great observation of Bacon that the old, in order to retain their youth, should associate with the young, was a controlling factor in determining MAJOR SUTHERLIN in forming so many acquaintances and friends among the young men of this city and country. But on the contrary it was due to the callings of a nobler principle. It was due to his catholic sympathy, his broad and deep humanity, and the buoyant vigor of his progressive intellect. He was no *laudator temporis acti*. The past was memorable and dear to him; but the future most thought of and most valued by him. He was a man of action. And in this future did he see the opportunities for the doing of deeds, the field for the operation of the masterful, constructive qualities of his make up He was hopeful; never despairing. So he stood naturally and gladly in the ranks of the young men in his older days. And he stood in those ranks rather as a wiser and cheering comrade, than as a censor or carping critic. To the young man trudging the hills of life's roadway, MAJOR SUTHERLIN always shouted the lusty shout of cheer and hope, and oftener than is commonly known to the earnest struggler he lent an Herculean hand of help. But when the hill was mounted his hand was steadying, and his wisdom was temperative.

I must observe, before taking my seat, upon one strong quality of MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S strong intellect. He was a great adviser. For a man of educational opportunities, so limited in early life, his powers of analysis were almost phenomenal. He was the most earnest and patient listener I ever conversed with He absorbed statements of facts with method, accuracy and rapidity. His discernment was most acute. And his judgment upon any given proposition was rarely at fault.

Mr. Chairman, Danville has lost a most remarkable man,

and public spirited citizen; our common country, a sincere patriot; and his friends, a strong, sympathetic and helpful companion.

Judge Berryman Green also spoke of the many good qualities of Major Sutherlin, and in giving an analysis of his character, said Danville had lost its best citizen, and the greatest intellect the town had ever produced. As one who knew his worth, he mourned his loss. Hon Geo. C. Cabell also spoke in the highest terms of Major Sutherlin's character and usefulness, and said he feared his loss could never be replaced. Touching remarks were also made by Messrs. James Wood, and J. R. Jopling.

Senators Hunton and Daniel, the one by telegraph, and the other by letter, also bore testimony to Major Sutherlin's character as follows:

Mrs. W. T. Sutherlin:—Am deeply distressed at the death of your distinguished husband. We have been warm friends for thirty years. He was able, patriotic, generous, and brave. Virginia has lost one of her best, and ablest sons, his community its leading citizen. The poor a generous benefactor, and his family its devoted head. Accept condolence from one who knew him well, and loved him.

Eppa Hunton.

I enjoyed a most agreeable acquaintance with Major Wm. T. Sutherlin, and he was so well informed on all public questions, that his conversation was always interesting and profitable. A short time before his death, I had the pleasure of a visit from him at my home, in Lynchburg, and was impressed with the vigor and grasp of his mind, and with the fullness of information with which he discussed matters now engaging public attention. From his eager interest in

economic affairs. I anticipated most advantageous results to our State.

MAJOR SUTHERLIN was one of our most enlightened and public spirited citizens. The energy and sagacity with which he prosecuted whatever commanded his attention insured success, and his ability was such that he would have made his mark in any legislative or public body. The great interest that he took in agricultural and economic affairs gave him much influence, and his loss will be deplored, not only in the community where he lived, but throughout the State which profited by his counsel and services.

I mourn the death of MAJOR SUTHERLIN. not only as a friend, but also as a leading citizen whose life was most useful to the State.

JNO. W. DANIEL,

Washington, D. C.

Those who had known MAJOR SUTHERLIN intimately as pastors and friends, also contributed willing and generous testimonials to the worth of thier departed friend, as will be seen from the following letter :

I esteem it a very precious personal privilege to have a small space in a memorial volume of the life and character of so true a man, and faithful a friend, as MAJOR WM. T. SUTHERLIN.

Our friendship began at the session of the Virginia Conference, 1865, when I was so kindly and generously entertained as his guest, and by appointment became his pastor.

To him, through the blessing of the Great Head of the church, I was largely indebted for whatever of success attended my pastorate of three years in the city of Danville. His active co-operation, his wise counsel, and his princely contributions of money and land, enabled the Methodist brethren and friends to move from their old dilapidated church building at the corner of Wilson and Lynn streets, and establish themselves in the large new house of worship

on Main street. To this church extension enterprise he gave thousands of dollars and no little of valuable time and judicious supervision. While Danville Methodism owes very much to many others for her wonderful growth, and development, to Bro. SUTHERLIN not a little is due for the magnificent results of the last quarter of a century. We are profoundly thankful that his work abides in the helpful investments he made for the prosperity of the church. He was passionately devoted to the Methodist church, and that devotion so provoked adverse comment as to occasion suffering of which few had knowledge. He endured no little that he might advance his church to the front place occupied by sister churches of other denominations.

He was a remarkably liberal man, ever giving privately and publicly, aiding in benevolent enterprises, relieving the personal need and distresses of the suffering poor, especially ministering to the widows and orphans. Yet he was wisely discriminating in his benefactions, and therefore was sometimes wounded by the unkind and unfriendly criticisms of those whom he refused. How often it could have been written of him, he "delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon him, and he caused the widow's heart to sing for joy."

In his home life he was almost faultless as husband and father. In reviewing three years of intimate association, memory fails in noting an unkind, unpleasant look, word or tone in the happy Christian home of Bro. SUTHERLIN, where his pastor and friend had freely, and fully, the right of way at all times, There were no scenes in that home.

Nature favored him with mental endowments far above ordinary—not brilliant, but strong and vigorous and extraordinarily resourceful He was in almost every instance fully equal to the expected and unexpected demands made upon him in the various relationships of business and political life. His ability to manage successfully large and complicated business interests, and to control men, was a continual surprise to his friends and neighbors who knew

of the comparative meagreness of his early advantages. At no time was he untrue to his gifts, but ever utilized them for their enlargement, and his increasing usefulness.

He knew men thoroughly, and with a will of unusual power, he influenced them as opportunity offered and occasion required. A man of strong character, he was devotedly loved by his friends, and most strangely misunderstood by those who disliked him, because they could not use him.

I have nothing to regret in the many years of our brotherly love and intercourse, save, that I was not more helpful to the one who had so greatly blessed one with his friendship.

W. W. DUNCAN.

The best view point as both to clearness and comprehensiveness, from which to study the life and character of an individual, is that of the family. Among those next best, especially where the individual is active and prominent in church matters, is the pastoral relation. Such, from the intimate association herein assured, is the nearness of view, and such the many sidedness of view that a pastor's estimate of a person is worthy of high rank among those factors that make up the judgment as to what he is or was. It is as his pastor at, and for some time before, MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S death that I speak of some of the salient features of his character, and as these features appeared to me.

Among the first things that impressed me, an impression deepening as I knew him better, was that MAJOR SUTHERLIN had a brain of unusual size, and of superior quality. His mental grasp was strong, his perceptions acute, and his vision clear. He had an unusual amount of common sense. Upon many subjects he was an oracle. Knowing him, no one had need to be told that he was a leader among men.

MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S public spiritedness was prominent, yea, as a mountain among hills, overshadowing. Whatever concerned his country, his State, his section, his city, his neighbor and friend, concerned him. Exempted by his ample means, particularly in the latter part of his life, from con-

stant business, he gave more time to the interests of others, than to his own successes, numerous, and of every kind, many political, many in connection with the building up of the material interests of his State or section, many of adjusting difficulties between neighbors, or of helping a friend out of financial straits, owe their being to him.

The hospitality of MAJOR SUTHERLIN was large and generous. A traveller relates that in Bokhara, he saw a great building, the gates of which were open, and fastened back to the walls with large nails. The house had not been shut night or day for a hundred years. All who came were amply entertained by the hospitable owner. This descripiton, in all of its essential features, was equally applicable to MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S princely home. To his many guests his bearing was, what is mine is thine.

In the family, as a husband and father, or grand-father, MAJOR SUTHERLIN impressed me as unusually considerate and devoted. What a wealth of affection there was, ready to be expended as their welfare might demand! I can well believe that in a married life for nearly forty-four years, not a speck of cloud ever marred the sunshine of a loving communion with her whose heart beat to his heart in sorrow as in joy, in conflict as in triumph. And what tenderness, yea, more than woman's tenderness, he always evinced to his grand-daughter, the light of his eyes! Upon the walls of my memory, painted in colors that fade not, are heart-felt pictures of that sweet home life.

As a member of the Methodist church, MAJOR SUTHERLIN, I am assured, was in the early days of Danville, its foremost man, the author of a larger and broader policy in church work, which proved so fruitful of good. When I first knew him, he was still the all-hearted man of his earlier life, still ready for every good word and work. *The crucial period of many a great enterprise looked not to him in vain.* He was wise in council, and of great breadth of view. In advocating the liberal support of his pastor, he once made, in my hearing, a remark that deserved to be written in letters of gold. "When I cannot take good care of my preacher, I

shall take in my sign at home." Bountiful living and large expenditures, at home, did not, in his judgment, comport with a niggardly support of the church.

As a Christian, MAJOR SUTHERLIN was a man of the finest impulses. The trend of his life was upward. If at any time through business, or other cares, there were deflections or less religious action, he took noble revenge upon such states by being more earnest afterwards. It was to be expected that a man of his type, would, in his large and varied contact with men, have now and then antagonisms. But here, as elsewhere, he was a broad guage man. He was above petty spite and rancor There was observable a singular freedom from bitterness, as he talked to me incidentally of some of those old experiences. Children, who instinctively recognized worth, were devotedly attached to MAJOR SUTHERLIN. His religion was of a practical turn The poor found in him the warmest and most helpful friend. He made many a "widow's heart sing for joy.',

He highly valued prayer. "Let us pray together, before you leave," not in a cold and perfunctory spirit, but with warmth and genuine interest, often fell upon my ears. If one's favorite hymns are suggestive of creed and character, then such favorite hymns with him as "Jesus lover of my soul," "Rock of Ages," "How firm a foundation," etc., hold out before us the correctness of his belief, and at the same time his trust in Christ as his full, and all-sufficient Saviour. I am thoroughly assured that when the Master called him, he was growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Take him all around, MAJOR SUTHERLIN was a remarkable man. His loss is humanly speaking, irreparable. The writer accounts himself happy in having enjoyed intimate fellowship with MAJOR SUTHERLIN. While memories of him are tender and precious, Hope distinctly whispers that one of the richest unfoldings of the future will be the renewal of that communion in the glorious home above.

J. S. HUNTER.

At a session of the Virginia Annual Conference, held in Petersburg, November, 1892, I first formed the acquaintance of MAJOR SUTHERLIN, whom I had known for years by reputation as a wealthy and very influential citizen of Danville, and of his native State. Commanding in appearance, with force marked in every line of his striking features, he then impressed me that he was one fitted for leadership, a very Saul among men, from the shoulders upwards taller than his fellows. From that Conference I was sent to Danville, as a pastor, when his carriage met me at the depot and conveyed me to his beautiful home, which ever afterward I entered as his firm friend, and welcome guest. When I last entered it, my beloved brother had left earthly scenes for a brighter and more beautiful Home in the skies.

MAJ. SUTHERLIN was a man of unusually high endowments, so much so, that it is doubtful, if in natural vigor of intellect, he had a superior in the State. He was a wise, rather than a brilliant man. Clear in his conception, (and perception), patient and thorough in investigation, remarkably accurate in his conclusions, forcible and convincing in argument, conservative and reliable in his opinions, he was fitted for the gubernatorial chair, and would have graced the Senate chamber of the United States. These qualities, added to an integrity that no temptation could successfully assail, enabled him forcibly to impress himself upon his associates, and command their highest respect. He easily ranked among the first citizens of his State, and for his own community, perhaps, no other ever did so much to advance its material interests. Danville owes to him a debt it can never repay, and Virginia unites in the obligation, for the services he rendered, the contributions he made to city and State, by his energy, his liberality, his far-sighted and progessive ideas.

The esteem in which he was held by his fellow-citizens, is partially shown by the offices of trust and honor to which they voluntarily called him, Mayor of his town, State Legislator, member of the State Secession Convention, Bank and Railroad President, and Director, President of State Agri-

cultural Society, member of the State Board of Agriculture, member of the Virginia Board of Public Works. All these places he filled with credit to himself, and honor to his constituents. In addition to these, the distinguished services he rendered on the celebrated Committee of Nine, in the dark reconstruction days, should cause every citizen of the Old Dominion to revere his memory, and write as his epitaph, "Well done, good and faithful servant.'

MAJOR SUTHERLIN was ever the warm friend of liberal education. He was largely instrumental in building the Danville College for Young Ladies, and for many years was a Trustee of Randolph Macon College, contributing liberally to its endowment fund, and also establishing the Sutherlin Prize Medal for Oratory.

But the character of the man was far greater than his services as here recorded. He had a heart of pure gold. His cordial hospitality welcomed with equal warmth to his palatial home, the President of the Confederate States, and the poorest visitor. His courtesy to the humble was marked and unvarying. His contributions to relieve the indigent and distressed, were frequent and large. No cry for aid could reach his ear from the deserving, that did not arouse the sympathy of his generous heart.

But the true man could only be known by those who participated in his home life. How cordial his greeting, how unstinted his hospitality. He could welcome the coming, but was from very nature reluctant to "speed the parting guest." We enter the domestic shrine with unaffected diffidence and sincere reverence. We may hold supended, but for a moment the curtain of the Holy of Holies, for how can we speak of his devotion to his cherished wife, who for so many long years was the worthy help-meet and trusted friend and adviser of this great man? How can we speak of his ardent love for the daughter, whose funeral service it was our sad duty to conduct, Mrs. Francis Lee Smith, one of the most beautiful, amiable and accomplished women we have ever known. How tell how the tendrils of his heart twined about his darling grand-daughter, the lovely child of

a noble mother? These are themes too sacred for the public gaze. We may only say, his home was more than the abode of wealth and luxury, it was a reflection of heavenly love, peace and happiness.

Of the Methodist church, in Danville, MAJOR SUTHERLIN may justly be called the father. Even before he was a professing Christian, he secured the first Methodist minister who ever held a pastorate in the town, and under his preaching the MAJOR was converted in 1855. In his Christian character he was not demonstrative nor intrusive, but he was sincere, and his feet were firmly planted on the Rock of Ages. From the year of his conversion, until the day of his death, the church was dear to his heart. He evinced his interest by deed and word, by cheerful liberality, by active effort, by fervent prayer. Main Street and Mount Vernon church both record his generous contributions, and his earnest zeal in their behalf. He died in full membership in the church of Christ, and from its door soard upward to his eternal reward.

He has gone, but his influence survives to bless mankind. He is dead, but the record of his life is ineffaceable and imperishable, and "by it he yet speaketh." The State, the city, the church, each, has suffered what man calls an irreparable loss, but our consolation aboundeth when we think of our dear friend who has left us for a little while; for

"Faith looks beyond the tomb,
And Heaven's bright portals sparkle through the gloom."

S. S. LAMBETH.

Mount Vernon, the church in which MAJOR SUTHERLIN held his membership, passed the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, In the Providence of God, MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN, a member of the Official Board of Mount Vernon M. E. church, South, and one of our Stewards, departed this life on the morning of the 22nd of July, 1893.

Resolved, That in the death of MAJOR SUTHERLIN, our

brother, the Board of Stewards has lost one of its most esteemed and valued officers; our church one of her most honored and respected members, our city one of the most intelligent and public spirited residents, and the State of Virginia one of her most prominent and reputable citizens.

Resolved, That the death of MAJOR SUTHERLIN, so sudden and unexpected, was to the members of the church, and to the Official Board, a personal loss and grief, but to him, our departed brother, ripe in life's work, and in love of the church and membership, it was only the beginning of a higher and better life with the Master whose servant our brother had been for years.

Resolved, That to the widow and family of our deceased brother, in this hour of bereavement and sore trial, we extend our love and sympathy, and invoke upon them the consolation and support of a dear Saviour, who has promised to remember and care for the widow and the orphans.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the records of the Official Board, and that the Secretary send a copy of these resolutions to our sister, the wife of our deceased brother.

(Signed) Aug. 7th, 1893.

E. B. WITHERS,
R. L. DIBRELL,
J. H. SCHOOLFIELD,
} COMMITTEE.

The Masonic Lodge also passed the following touching resolutions:

HEADQUARTERS DOVE COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,
Danville, Va., July 28th. 1893.

WHEREAS, Our honored and beloved frater Sir Knight, W. T. SUTHERLIN, has been removed from us by death, therefore be it

Resolved, That we acknowledge with all humility the wisdom and providence of God in all his dealings with us, and bow in humble submission to his divine will.

Resolved, That in the death of Sir Knight SUTHERLIN, this Commandery has lost one of its most useful and influential members. One who was ever ready to respond to the call of duty, and one who gave to it freely the full benefit of his valuable experience and wisdom.

Resolved, That we recognize his devotion and loyalty to the Masonic fraternity in all its departments, and especially do we acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe to him for the intelligence with which he planned, and the sagacity with which he executed in the years long passed, in order to establish the fraternity on a solid, financial basis, so that it could carry on the works of philanthropy and charity, for which this fraternity has been noted in this community.

Resolved, That we respectfully tender to his family our earnest and tender sympathy, in this, their hour of desolation.

Respectfully submitted,

W. W. WADDILL. }
J. I. PRITCHETT, } COMMITTEE.
F. B. GRAVELY, }

Copy test, A. T. Burr, Jr., Recorder.

At the regular stated communication of Roman Eagle Lodge. F. & A. M., held in Masonic Temple, Danville, on the 14th day of August, 1893. the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

By dispensation of Providence, this Lodge has been brought to mourn the death of WM. T. SUTHERLIN, our esteemed brother, who departed this life on July 22nd, 1893, at the age of seveny-one years, three months and fifteen days.

The many valuable public services which our deceased brother rendered to his community and his State, are matters of history, and as such will receive due record, while his work and influence as a Mason, will be commemorated in the archives and traditions of our Lodge.

On the 16th of May 1844, brother SUTHERLIN became a Mas-

ter Mason. From the first, he took an active interest in the affairs of his Lodge, and rendered important aid in the building of the temple now occupied by it. In 1851, the ground upon which the temple stands, was deeded to the Worshipful Master and Wardens, to be held by them as trustees for the Lodge, our deceased brother being then one of the Wardens, and from that time till his death, he was one of the trustees by whom the property was held. He gave his sound judgment to its care and management. In his charities he exemplified the tenets of our order, by ready response to appeals for relief of the needy and distressed. For nearly half a century, he was among the foremost in the good work of our order, and now that he has passed from labor unto rest, as a mark of our appreciation of his services and bereavement at his loss, be it

Resolved, 1st. That Roman Eagle Lodge deeply laments the death of brother Wm T. Sutherlin, one of its oldest and most useful members, who was wise in counsel, as he was energetic and liberal in promoting the welfare of this institution.

2nd. That while our deceased brother was zealous as a Mason, he was also patriotic and public spirited, and we recognize that the results of his labors in behalf of our order, our community and our State, will be a fitting monument to his memory.

3rd. That these Resolutions and Preamble be spread upon the records of this Lodge, and a copy thereof be sent to the family of our deceased brother, with the assurance of our sincere sympathy in their affliction.

ABNER ANDERSON,
H. W. COLE,
FRANK S. WOODSON,
} Committee.

J. L. TYACK, Secretary.

On motion, the city papers were requested to publish the resolutions, and a copy be forwarded to the family of the deceased.

On motion adjourned.

A called meeting of the tobacco association was held the same afternoon at 2:45 o'clock, at Planter's warehouse, and was called to order by President James G. Penn.

Mr. Penn stated that the association had been called together on account of the death of MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN, one of the oldest members of the association, and in order that the association could take suitable action in regard to his death.

On motion of Mr. Dudley, a committee of three, consisting of Messrs. O. W. Dudley, E. H. Miller and D. J. Holcombe, was appointed to prepare and present suitable resolutions.

The committee retired, and after a short absence returned and reported the following, which were unanimously adopted.

We your committee appointed to draft suitable resolutions on the death of MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN, beg to submit the following:

WHEREAS, In the providence of an Allwise God, death has again invaded our ranks and taken from us our oldest, and one of our most honored members, MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN, who, although not continually in the trade, has for the past forty-seven years been prominently identified with the tobacco industry of our city and community, first as manufacturer, then as planter, and at the time of his death at the head of the Sutherlin Meade Tobacco company, and recognizing the loss our trade, city and community have sustained by this visitation of Providence, we, the Board of Trade, desire to express our deepest sorrow at his death, and to this end be it

Resolved, 1st. That we bow submissively to the will of God in summoning from amongst us by the hand of death, our associate, MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN, a leader whose judgment was sought, as a counselor wise and sagacious, ever

willing and ready to lend his influence and energy for the upbuilding of our trade and city, and a helping hand to those in distress.

2nd. That we tender to his bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy in his death, and pray that God will shield and protect them in this their sad affliction.

3rd. That these resolutions be spread upon our records, and the same published in our city papers, and resolved further, that the trade attend the funeral in a body.

It was moved and adopted that the members of the trade meet at the residence of the deceased at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and attend the funeral in a body.

The State Board of Agriculture resumed its session at the Exchange Hotel at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, with Mr. Corbin in the chair. The other members present were Messrs. Mallory, Gaines, Lyman, Palmer and Commissioner Whitehead.

The committee appointed the evening before to draft resolutions touching the death of the late president of the Board, MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN reported through their chairman, Mr. H. Lyman, as follows :

Your special committee to whom was referred the resolution of respect to the memory of our lamented late president, MAJOR WM. T. SUTHERLIN, beg leave respectfully to report: That the sudden announcement of the visitation of Providence, by which our State has been deprived of a man so thoroughly in sympathy with its agricultural interests, has filled us with profound sorrow.

He was a man wise in the counsels of this Board toward the direction of measures for the advancement of the agricultural prosperity of each district, and it ever seemed to be his determined effort to do everything which would secure to any individual or locality every benefit of improvement by which land could be made more valuable, farm labor dignified and farm homes happier.

His genial disposition and pure character impressed itself

upon all who came in contact with him, and especially did it seem to shine forth in his intercourse with the Board.

We grieve over the loss of one of the most able and patriotic sons of Virginia, who had distinguished himself in every sphere of useful endeavor, the loss of a highly appreciated and much cherished friend, a noble colleague and a true Christian gentleman.

We recommend that these resolutions be spread upon the records of this Board, and that a copy be sent to the bereaved family. We further recommend that the clerk of the Board be instructed to furnish copies of these resolutions to the press.

(Signed) HENRY L. LYMAN, Chairman,
S. WELLFORD CORBIN,
RICHARD V. GAINES.

Following the reading of the resolution each member of the committee took occasion to refer in tender and touching terms to the life and character of their esteemed late president of the Board. The references to their associations with him in their capacity, and the deep interest he had always manifested in the promotion of agriculture of Virginia were of the tenderest character.

All Sunday morning and afternoon people poured into the late residence to take a last look at the dead as he lay in the casket.

Long before the time set for the cortege to move to the church, people gathered on the spacious grounds, and in the hallways at the mansion, waiting for the arrival of the Masonic bodies whom the deceased, when in life, so much honored, and who were to take part in the funeral obsequies.

On the casket was the following simple inscription.

Major William T. Sutherlin.
Born, April 7, 1822.
Died, July 22, 1893.

A few minutes after 5 o'clock, the lid of the casket was drawn, and the face and form of him whom the people admired, and who had dwelt so long among them, were hid from view forever, and the casket borne to the hearse.

The march was then taken up to the church in the following order:

Knights Templar.

Morotock and Roman Eagle Lodges of Masons.

Tobacco Association.

Pall-bearers and flower-bearers.

Hearse.

Carriages containing family and friends.

The funeral cortege was flanked on both sides by a large concourse of people. On arriving at the church, the casket was met at the entrance to the audience room by Rev. J. S. Hunter, the pastor, assisted by Rev. Dr. S. S. Lambeth, Rev. Dr. T. B. Thames, Rev. Dr. W. E. Edwards, Rev. C. B. Bryan and Rev. W. T. Doggett The reverend gentlemen preceded the casket to the chancel, the pastor reading, "I am the resurrection and the life," and as it was deposited in front of the chancel, the choir sang "How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord," which was followed by the reading of the Scripture lessons by Rev. Dr. Edwards.

Hymn, "He Leadeth Me," was then sung, Mrs. John N. Wyllie rendering the solo part.

Rev. Dr. T. B. Thames then offered a fervent invocation which was followed by a solo by Mrs. G. G. Temple, "I Would Not Live Always," air, Home, Sweet Home.

Every seat in the church was occupied, and people crowded into the aisles.

Rev. Dr. Lambeth, of Norfolk, a former pastor and firm friend of the deceased, who had come on to Danville on hearing of MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S death, arose and in beautiful language paid a splendid tribute to his life and character.

Rev. J. H. Forbes related several incidents in the life of MAJOR SUTHERLIN, and at the conclusion of his remarks, Rev. J. S. Hunter preached a short sermon from Lamentations, iii, 33: For he doth not afflict willingly.

As the choir sang "Abide With Me," the remains were borne from the church, the following being the pallbearers: Knights Templar: G. K. Griggs, E. H. Miller. W. F. Patton and W. W. Waddill; Master Masons: Robert Brydon, J. L. Tyack, G. C. Cabell and F. S. Woodson.

The flower-bearers were: H. W. Cole, T. J. Talbott, John H. Schoolfield, Wm. Rison, D. Ayres, W. T. Law, J. S. Meade, A. Douthat, E. B. Withers, F. M. Hamlin, A. Anderson, Judge B. Green, Judge A. M. Aiken, E. E. Bouldin, J. M. Neal, P. W. Ferrell, M. P. Jordan, Green Penn, C. C. Dula, J. T. Watson, Sr., C. H. Hickey, A. J. Montague, J. O. Foy, Duval Porter, W. E. Meade, P. Bouldin and J. P. Harrison.

Just as the sun disappeared behind the western hills, the body was lowered in the grave at Green Hill cemetery the Masonic ceremonies closing the burial services.

The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful, among them being Gates Ajar, inscribed my Uncle William; Pillow, My Husband; square and compass, Masonic emblem; lyre and harp.

A large number of strangers were present, among them

being Colonel Thomas Whitehead, Colonel J. S. Cunningham, Major R. V. Gaines and H. G. Buchanan.

CHAPTER VII.

As a matter of course, it might be expected that the press would comment widely on the death of such a distinguished citizen as MAJOR SUTHERLIN. And so it did. Out of many hundreds which appeared we have only space for a few of the leading ones.

From the Danville *Daily Register:*

In the death of MAJOR WM. T. SUTHERLIN, the South, Virginia, the city of Danville, and the church of God have sustained a loss not easily repaired.

For more than a half a century he had been prominent as a public spirited citizen, a promoter of good and a patriotic lover of his country and his people.

For more than forty years Danville has been engaged in no public enterprise of which he was not the originator or an active promoter. Danville has known no educational, church or charitable enterprise to which he was not a liberal contributor of means, time and talent.

Though MAJOR SUTHERLIN had completed his three score years and ten, it was frequently said of him that in all things requiring energy, sagacity, public spirit and a genuine American progressiveness, he was the youngest man in the community. This was literally true, and as his years increased his public spirit grew instead of diminished.

His long experience in public and private business, his unbounded knowledge of men and methods, his liberal views, his quick perception, capacity for getting at the very bottom of everything, his broad and never failing wisdom, and above

all, his kindly inclination to hold all these powers at the command of his friends made him a friend and a guide to the struggling young man, the weak business enterprise, the feeble church, the cramped charitable institution, that was worth more in the end than a large bank account.

He loved Virginia and Danville, and his time and talent were ever at their command; he loved the people of Virginia, and he served them well; He loved the church, and in his unostentatious way he did as much as any one man in Virginia or anywhere else to promote her welfare and increase her usefulness.

Truly, the commonwealth has lost a noble son, this city one of its noblest and most patriotic citizens, and the church a pillow of strength.

But the severest loss of all is that sustained by the loving wife, who has cheerfully shared with him in his early struggles and his reverses, and rejoiced with him in his many triumphs and successes, and for nearly a half century has been to him a helpmeet in the truest sense of the term.

To her, and to the devoted grand-daughter, the heartfelt sympathy of this community, which loved and honored MAJOR SUTHERLIN goes out.

From the Danville *Evening Star:*

Our entire community was inexpressibly shocked by the announcement early this morning of the death of our distinguished fellow-citizen, MAJOR WM. T. SUTHERLIN, which occurred from angina pectoris at his residence, in this city, at 3 o'clock this A. M. The news of this great public calamity spread rapidly, and the gloom which overshadowed every face and the large concourse of friends and admirers who gathered at his doors with anxious inquiries and deep sympathy, were in themselves the strongest testimonial of the high esteem and respe t in which the deceased was held by all classes of his fellow-citizens.

As a man and citizen, MAJOR SUTHERLIN was a marked character, possessing many of the mental and moral attributes which characterize the world's greatest men. His mind

was suggestive to an extraordinary degree, and at the same time far-reaching and profound, while acute and prompt to decide. He was quick and ready in forming his opinions, and bold, aggressive and alert in maintaining them. He wrote with great force and clearness, and was an able and persuasive speaker. He was ever keenly alive to his duties as a citizen, and ready to advance by pen, speech and hand the public interest. As a financier, he had few equals, having accumulated a large private fortune, and been always a leader in the financial discussions of politics. At the very time of his death he was preparing to address the citizens of Bedford county on the present financial condition of the country, and his views on this subject have always carried weight in Virginia.

In private life he was gentle and urbane, generous and hospitable beyond any person we have ever known, and no man, rich or poor, was ever without a kindly welcome in his beautiful home.

With all these elements of greatness and popularity, MAJOR SUTHERLIN might easily have secured the highest political honors, but he preferred the quiet ways of life and the pleasures of home and family, with acts of daily public usefulness, to the turmoil and worries of office, and the wisdom of his choice is to be found in the grateful remembrance of his fellow-citizens and the tears and sorrow of the many who have been recipients of his bountiful generosities.

Taken all in all Danville has lost her leading and greatest citizen, and it will be long, if ever, before his place can be filled.

To have been followed to the grave by so large a number of sorrowing friends is of itself proof sufficiet that MAJOR SUTHERLIN held a strong hold upon the hearts of the people of Danville. It seemed to have been a proud privilege of thousands to call him their friend. MAJOR SUTHERLIN died in the eventide of a happy and useful life, with the setting sun falling full and fair upon his face, without a shadow of regret to obscure its splendor as it sank in a sea of sapphire, gleaming in its own glory, shooting level lances of golden

light over the western hill-top. He had accomplished his life work, filled the measure of his earthly mission. When the death angel touched his heart and said, "Peace be still," he was ready to drop his weapons with which he had fought the battles of life, and lay down to that dreamless sleep. He fell like the autumn leaves in the winter of old age, like the ripened grain before the reaper's sickle.

Peace to his ashes, in Heaven rest his soul.

From the Richmond *Dispatch:*

The death of MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN of Danville, is a surprise and shock to the country. Though well advanced in years. he seemed to be in fair health, and had made an engagement to address a public meeting in Bedford on Monday on the monetary situation. We, ourselves, were having a tilt with him on that subject, in the friendly and candid spirit which had characterized our intercourse for two-score years, and were making ready to parry the blows which we knew he had the ability to deliver.

He was a man whom we esteemed highly. His home life was beautiful, and he was one of the most public spirited of Virginia's sons. In politics, business and church work he was an active spirit. He had a vigorous mind and a generous heart. He might have seemed brusque to strangers, but that which could have been mistaken for brusqueness was really nothing more than directness of purpose and not from lack of consideration for the feeling of others.

He was ever aiming at the development of the resources of this commonwealth. Though possessed of a fortune which was the product of his own energy and capacity, he was not content to be a mere looker-on in life. He had served as a legislator, president of the Agricultural Society, president of the State Board of Agriculture, president and director of railroads, director on many boards, &c., and freely gave his time and labor to the public.

At his house in Danville, President Davis held his last Cabinet meeting. In reconstruction times the MAJOR rendered this State services of inestimable value as a member of

that "Committee of Nine" citizens who steered Virginia out of the quagmire of reconstruction into the Union again. In the House of Delegates he impressed his fellow-members with the breadth of his views, his earnest and far-seeing purpose, and capacity, to consider and discuss nearly all of the questions which came before that body. Here in Richmond the people knew him well. He was one of the best presidents the State Agricultural Society ever had. Indeed, he was a man whose character, intelligence and industry commanded public respect, whilst his warm-hearted sympathies endeared him to a wide circle of friends.

Lately the name of MAJOR SUTHERLIN had been coupled with the nomination for the office of lieutenant-governor, and thousands of our Virginia people had felt that it would be a handsome thing for the Democratic party to do to confer this honor upon him who had done so much for it and asked nothing of it. But it was not to be. Death came and claimed him for another sphere, where, we trust and believe, he is enrolled among the blest.

From the Norfolk *Virginian:*

In the death of MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN, of Danville, Virginia, suffers the loss of one of her most prominent sons, and Danville a most distinguished and public spirited citizen. Throughout the length and breadth of the commonwealth he was known and respected. He was a man of the highest type and character, whose rare good sense rendered his advice and judgment important in all matters appertaining to the welfare of his section or his State, in business or in politics. His death will be lamented throughout the State.

From the Richmond *State:*

Danville and that section of Virginia will miss MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN. He was looked up to as the leading citizen. It was a responsible position, requiring executive talent and disinterested devotion. MAJOR SUTHERLIN had both. The man who occupies that unique place as the leading citizen in a community has a position of great responsibility

From the Danville *Times:*

In our local columns we give an account of the death of Major Wm. T. Sutherlin.

A few weeks ago, while we were at his house, we well remember how sadly he said: "Bouldin, there are very few of us left." Little did we think that, so soon he too would pass away, making the number one less. Major Sutherlin was our friend, and although we differed widely at times, on public questions, it made no difference with him; his friendship for us individually and his support to our paper, continued to the last.

Saturday morning when his manly form was laid out for the grave, as we gazed upon the placid features of his face, the life and animation all gone, and his voice hushed in death, a spell of sadness came over us such as we have seldom experienced in this vale of tears.

Major Sutherlin had a kind heart, and his crowning virtue was, (what that of every other man, who is like him, is,) that he made a good husband. Nor was this kindness of heart confined to his family; he was a friend to the poor, and helped a great many people.

He was hospitable and entertained strangers to a greater extent, we dare say, than any man in Danville.

He was public spirited, aiding in all measures which were calculated to build up the town and country. One thing has struck us, and that is, sometimes when the people of Danville wanted a measure put through, and were doubtful of success, they called upon Major Sutherlin, and even those who didn't like him, joined in. What greater tribute could be paid to his talent, tact and energy.

He was not only active in building up the material interests of the country, but he helped the cause of religion and education. Among the instances of his aid to the latter, we will mention the fact that he encouraged oratory by awarding what is called the "Sutherlin Medal," every year, to the best speaker at Randolph Macon College.

He was not a worshipper of the past, but a man of pro-

gress. Nor was his a speculative mind: it was eminently practical. The abstruse metaphysical questions which have perplexed a large portion of mankind from the days of Job down to the present time, never disturbed him For instance, the individual who introduced such a question as, how can God's foreknowledge be reconciled with man's free agency. was soon interrupted by his asking, what is Congress doing? or what do the farmers say about the tobacco crop? His mind was on the practical affairs of life.

Very few persons ever got the better of MAJOR SUTHERLIN in debate, for the reason that, in the first place, he was a man of ability and weighed his subject well before he rose to speak. Besides, he was very cautious and never allowed his temper to get the better of him.

Too many persons tell the first man they meet what you reveal to them in confidence; but MAJOR SUTHERLIN was not that way. He was the safest man to talk to, we ever met.

The farmers of Virginia regarded him as a valuable friend to their class, and had he lived to the 17th of August (the time for the State Convention,) they would have backed him strongly as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S value to the community never appeared to greater advantage than it did soon after the riot, when he acted as chairman of the "Committee of Forty." We have not space to enlarge; but many of our readers remember the important part which he took on that memorable occasion.

There is, in the life of MAJOR SUTHERLIN, much to encourage the poor young man who is ambitious of success. When he started out in life on his own hook he had nothing but the clothes which were on his back and seventy-five cents in his pocket. His great success was owing to the fact he wanted to succeed and had the power of self-denial.

The death of such a man is not only a great loss to Danville, but also to the State of Virginia.

Danville *Southern Tobacco Journal:*

The Tobacco Journal is called upon to announce the sud-

den death of another prominent member of the Danville Tobacco Association, in the person of MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN. This sad death occurred this morning at his residence on Main street in this city at 3 o'clock.

Notwithstanding the ripe age that MAJOR SUTHERLIN had attained, no death that has occured in our midst comes more unexpected to the community, it was indeed a shock. He was yesterday morning about on the streets apparently in usual health and great activity for one of his age. His illness was of a few moment's duration. It is supposed the immediate cause of death was heart failure. He was 71 years of age, was born a few miles from Danville, April 7th, 1822.

Few men were known more extensively throughout the South than was the subject of this sketch. He was prompt in every movement, christian, social, material or political, that he thought would advance the interests of the South, and volumes of interesting and profitable reading matter could be written upon the character and life of MAJOR SUTHERLIN, but we will only attempt to give our readers an outline of his life as a tobacconist.

When a mere youth he was engaged in steaming tobacco in one of the first manufactories started in Danville. After clerking for a while, he embarked in business on his own account by procuring a one-horse team and peddling tobacco in the South. It is said that from the start in those pioneer days of tobacco manufacturing, he was recognized as possessing, in a high degree, the qualifications requisite for a successful business career, and was admitted a partner in a tobacco manufacturing firm about 1845, and was continuously engaged in the manufacturing business until 1861. In the successful prosecution of his chosen avocation he had risen almost from obscurity to become one of the largest manufacturers in the South before the war.

He has from youth to old age been connected with the tobacco interests in the capacity of grower, manufacturer or dealer.

He was the prime mover in the organization of the Dan-

ville Storage Warehouse, and many other enterprises of the trade that have so greatly tended to build up this city.

At the time of his death he was an active member of the Sutherlin Meade Tobacco Company of this city.

He was an honored and the oldest member of the Danville Association.

From the Lynchburg *News:*

A telegram was received in this city from Danville yesterday announcing the sudden death, at 3 o'clock A. M., of MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN, with angina pectoris.

MAJOR SUTHERLIN was born in Pittsylvania county, near Danville, about sixty-five years ago. Prior to the war, he was engaged in the manufacture of tobacco, by which he amassed a large fortune. He was a member of the convention which passed the ordinance of secession from the Federal Union, and upon the opening of hostilities entered the army as major quartermaster, and remained on duty at Danville in that capacity until the close of the war. When the evacuation of Richmond drove President Davis and his Cabinet from the Confederate Capital, the President and several members of the Cabinet were for a time MAJOR SUTHERLIN'S guests, and it was in his house that Mr. Davis penned his last proclamation to the people of the Confederate States.

At the close of the war MAJOR SUTHERLIN turned his attention to agriculture, and purchased several valuable farms in Pittsylvania. He was elected a member of the House of Delegates, and as a legislator impressed his characteristics of enterprise and energy upon the legislation of the State. He declined a re-election and retired to private life, but has since figured several times in Democratic conventions, and was an alternate from Virginia to the Chicago Convention which nominated President Cleveland.

During the present gubernatorial campaign, as is well known, MAJOR SUTHERLIN has been put forward by his friends for the position of Lieutenant-Governor, and has made several speeches, his specialty being the currency question.

Socially, no citizen of Danville, or Pittsylvania county,

was more generally popular or more hospitable. He leaves a widow and one grand-child, the latter a young lady well known in social circles throughout Virginia and the South, a daughter of Colonel Frank L. Smith, of Alexandria.

From the Richmond *Christian Advocate:*

On the 22nd inst., this prominent and well known Methodist of Danville passed suddenly away. At the age of seventy he fell a victim to a heart affection of which he had suffered some serious attacks at different times. He has been a leading figure in business, political and religious circles in the society of his section of Virginia, and a representative man of the State at large for many years. From the time of the transfer of that section of the old North Carolina Conference to Virginia, in 1858, he has been identified with the progress of Methodism in Danville; and the large educational movements and important measures for the development and strengthening of our interests as a Christian denomination have been assisted by his council and support. He established the "Sutherlin Prize Medal," for oratory, at Randolph-Macon College, and contributed liberally in other respects to that institution of which he was, and had been long a trustee. At the time of his death he was President of the State Board of Agriculture, having always been a foremost patron and practical promoter of that noblest of occupations by which men gain a living. He had been largely engaged in railroad construction, chiefly for the opening up of regions around Danville. His beautiful and elegant home in that city was the seat of a generous and courteous hospitality, and none were more welcome to its halls or received there more attention than ministers of the Gospel. We tender to his bereaved family our most heart-felt sympathy, and pray that they may abundantly receive the supporting grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The funeral took place at Mount Vernon Methodist Episcopal church at 5:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon, and was attended by a vast concourse of people The services were conducted by Rev. Joshua S. Hunter. A eulogy was deliv-

ered by Dr. S. S. Lambeth, a former pastor of the deceased. The body was escorted to the cemetery by Lodges of Knights Templar and Master Masons, and buried with Masonic honors just as the sun was sinking in the western sky.

From the Reidsville, N. C., *Webster's Weekly :*

The *Weekly* is grieved to chronicle the death of MAJOR W. T. SUTHERLIN, of Danville, which sad event occurred at his home last Saturday morning about 3 o'clock. His malady was heart disease, and he died very suddenly. Our news columns contain an account of his death and a brief sketch of his life.

MAJOR SUTHERLIN was a clear-headed, broad-guage man, and exerted a wide influence in his State. His death is a great blow to Danville and a loss to the whole State.

We have known him many years and found him a true friend and safe counsellor. His opinions were always valuable because he went to the bottom of whatever he turned his mind upon. His great energy and remarkable power of concentration were the secret of his magnificent success in the business world.

Better than all, our honored friend made preparation for the life beyond, and the memory of his good deeds will ever be fragrant.

May the devoted wife, and grand-daughter, who composed his family, find divine comfort in their dark hour of affliction.

APPENDIX.

During the course of his life, Major Sutherlin never failed to serve his fellow-citizens when requested to do so. And as his ability was well known, he was frequently solicited to deliver addresses in different sections of the State. As his style of speaking, and subject, were nearly always of a practical nature, and as the advice in them is so sound, and so much in keeping with their author, we hardly deem it necessary to re-publish them with any apology for so doing, for we conceive the perusal of these addresses will give the readers of this memoir a clearer conception of their friend intellectually than they otherwise could have had.

It is well known that Major Sutherlin was always in sympathy and touch with the Agricultural and Mechanical classes. In consequence he was willing at all times to assist them in any way he could. Only two years after the late war, he was requested by the Mechanical Association of the city of Danville to address them. He did so, and the folowing correspondence will show how it was received:

Danville, Va., March 12th, 1867.

Major W. T. Sutherlin—Dear Sir: In compliance with the unanimous wish of the Mechanics' Association, as expressed in the resolution below, I have the honor to request for publication a copy of your excellent Address, delivered

before us on the 11th instant. Hoping that you may be induced to yield to the earnest desire of the Association, in thus allowing us to place this admirable production in a more enduring form I am very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL PILSON, Prest.

On motion of W. T. Rainey,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be tendered Major W. T. Sutherlin, for the very able and instructive Address, delivered before us this evening.

Resolved, That a copy of that Address be requested, with permission that it may be published.

Danville, Va., March 15th, 1867.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., desiring for publication a copy of my Address before the Mechanics' Association, at Danville.

In complying with your request, allow me to express my thanks to your Association for their very complimentary resolutions, and also to yourself for the flattering terms in which you have been pleased to communicate them.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. T. SUTHERLIN.

SAMUEL PILSON, Esq.
President Mechanics' Association, Danville.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen
of the Mechanics' Association of Danville:

I appear before you, in compliance with your invitation, to give what aid I may to your praiseworthy effort to elevate and improve yourselves as members of the various mechanical professions.

I feel honored by the invitation to address you; honored by

the confidence it expresses, that what concerns you, is of interest to me. That confidence is not misplaced. I regard your society with no careless feeling. Properly guided, to proper ends, it will be productive of great benefits both to you and others. Association itself is power; but when that power is supplied with wheels and cogs, springs and levers, fire and steam, which the mechanic should know how to place and apply as well intellectually as physically, then it can influence to mighty results and move at will the masses of society.

There are many topics that present themselves to the mind as suitable themes for an occasion like this. Indeed, the great difficulty is to select from the many, such as are of chief importance and of general and acknowledged interest, so as to avoid taxing the hearer to weariness.

One thought over which many, if not the most, of mechanics brood, until it bears bitter fruit, is connected with the social position awarded to working men. Why is it, they ask themselves, that mechanics are not entitled to positions as elevated in society as those accorded to other classes of citizens? Is not a mechanic as worthy of respect as any other man? But these questions cannot be satisfactorily answered by a simple assent or denial; and it is important as now, that we give to them a proper consideration.

It would be idle to say to you that distinctions in society are either useless or improper. They are necessary. There will be, there must be, social distinctions while man is man. The world of mankind reaches from the lowest grade of barbarism to the highest of polished civilization. Every diversity is a separate link in the long chain, and every step in human progress is a ground of distinction. Out of these variations arise discrimina-

tions and associations; classifications and groupings that grow out of the fitness that almost compels companionship. Naturally, like seeks like, and so society organizes itself, and settles into classes, each of which has some strong bond of affinity, some central idea; wealth in some, pride of birth, intellectual tastes, scientific researches, similarity of pursuits, political accord, any common trait or liking that secures to those within the particular circle, community of interest and harmony of sentiment. These classes of society remain; they are permanent. But of the individuals that compose them, many are constantly passing from one to another as changes occur in their circumstances and fortunes; and to secure such change and transfer from a lower to a higher sphere is one of the great struggles of life. This is man's great ambition—a pride of soul neither to be derided nor despised. It makes him economical and industrious, and inspires him with a noble effort to rise above his present condition and reach something higher and better. Such earnest effort makes the true man, and distinguishes men from men, both as to moral strength and mental capacity. This animated motive inspired the poor shepherd boy of Scotland, when lying at night beside his flock in the secluded valley, and wrapped in his coarse plaid, he looked up to the bright stars above him, to rouse his young strength to scale the scientific heights to which their beauty and their glory pointed him, and stand successfully at the top in sight of wondering men as Ferguson, the Astronomer.

Yours is an association naturally growing out of a similarity of pursuits; the employment of your thoughts and toil upon mechanical art in its various forms.

And what is a mechanic? A working man; one skilled in some art of value to the world, at which he works with his own

hands as a calling. And what is there here that of necessity is either low or degrading? It was not in wrath, but in mercy, that God said to the man who had lost his Paradise, "In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread." Was Socrates, the world-renowned philosopher of the olden time, degraded because he had worked as a mechanic? His memory is immortal. Was Paul the "tent-maker" degraded when he said, "These hands have ministered to my necessities? Let his Apostolic pre-eminence, and the undying glory that rests upon his name, be a sufficient answer. Benjamin Franklin the printer, who was not ashamed, with his own hands to trundle through the streets of Philadelphia, the wheel-barrow that contained his little lot of paper, all that in his poverty he could purchase,and Roger Sherman, the poor Connecticut shoemaker, each by sobriety, industry and intellect, became a member of that Congress which ushered a nation into being; and both of them, as members of the committee that framed the Declaration of Independence, stood side by side, acknowledged equals, with Jefferson, Livingston and Adams, who belonged to the most aristocratic classes of society. Sheffey too could rise from his hammer and lap-stone in the Valley of Virginia, and fearlessly cope with the sarcastic wit of the aristocratic Randolph, of Roanoke, in the halls of Congress; and Andrew Jackson, rising from the humble position of a county constable in South Carolina, by dint of energy and intellect, became the hero of New Orleans, and the idol, not merely of a powerful party, but of the whole people.

Farther back in the world's history we see a poor and obscure sailor, possessed of nothing but the body and mind that God gave him, and who, at the time referred to, was even fed by charity at the gate of a convent, yet standing before an assembled

council of the learned and the noble, "pleading the cause of a new world," as Irving eloquently expressed it; stood there not merely to plead a theory, but determined to work out the problem of an unknown hemispere, beyond an ocean over which human courage had never ventured. And farther still in the distant past, we see the messengers of the proud Roman Senate entering the precincts of a small farm where a poor man was ploughing his little field, and saluting him, not merely consul, but dictator, to control by his single will the destinies of war and peace of that powerful republic; and to-day, the once obscure tailor of North Carolina, is the energetic President of a great nation. None of these men were great when they began their course. And it is for you to determine, each man for himself, what position he will occupy in the scale of social distinctions. This cannot be given; each individual man must work it out by his own toil and intellect.

Before I pass to other themes, there are some thoughts of peculiar point in this day of change in our social fabric. which I will present in this connection. The more favored classes of our young men, those who have had early advantages of education and position, have been in the habit of looking to the professions of law and medicine, or to the merchant's counting room, as the only eligible and desirable means of obtaining a livelihood or seeking fortune. Agriculture, when the work was to be done by other hands than their own, has also been considered as proper for youths of this description; but all kinds of mechanical pursuits have been sedulously avoided, and the sight of a boy to whom other avocations were open, apprenticed to some handicraft trade, with the intention of following it as a life profession, is so very rare that we may pronounce it almost unknown. Why is this?

History is full of evidence that mechanical labor is no barrier to either social or political distinction. To my mind there are two main reasons for it. First, it has grown into a maxim that it degrades the boy to apprentice him to a trade. I do not mean the simple idea that labor is considered degrading; for the same boy that would spurn a jack-plane, and look with horror on a hand-saw, is very willing to sweep out a merchant's store, or dust the goods on the counter, and will even take a pride in encountering a pile of greasy bacon for the accommodation of any chance customer. Noble and true boys, they will work till midnight if necessary; but from the idea of being apprenticed to a blacksmith or a carpenter, they shrink back appalled.

What is the cause of this strange difference? The words trade, apprentice, mechanic, are what seem to them degrading; not mere labor. They have been educated to look on a trade as ungenteel—not proper work for a gentleman. Why should not a gentleman be a mechanic, and a mechanic be a gentleman? No one can give a reason. Who looks more like a man, such as God made in his own likeness,—he who stands out in the open sunlight, and with healthy, ruddy countenance, beaded with the sweat of toil, and well knit sinewy frame, hurls his good axe into the stubborn forest tree, or he who with feeble frame, the inheritance of a hot-house childhood, stands in the shade behind the merchant's counter, and smilingly measures off, for some fair customer, ten yards of calico, which he positively assures her "will wash?" Which seems the more elevated position, to hammer the red iron on the ringing anvil, and to forge the unwieldly mass, and fit and frame the thundering locomotive, or to sit lazily in some professional office and talk politics, or study idly at the street corner and discuss with learned criticism the dresses

of the ladies as they pass? Gentility,—a gentleman,—none of these things make up either the one or the other. These grow out of elevated principle in a man, not the trade or profession he may happen to have adopted.

The other principal reason why apprentices look so appalling to a boy gently reared, is the failure of those who have mechanical shops to respect their own calling, and maintain its proper dignity. Men have combined to assign mechanics a low position in the social scale, and mechanics have too often assented to the unjust verdict. Let the mechanic, feeling that he is a man, manifest the same respect in his shop, that the merchant and the professional man exibit in the office and the store. Not by written rules only, but let him show in his conduct and bearing that he respects himself. No man, tradesman or other, need expect, that when by his own course he rates himself at a small figure, the world or any one in it, will count him as a large one. Such has been the weight of this incubus, this night-mare of opinion, that very few of the mechanics of our country have ever served a regular apprenticeship. There is so little care by the master of the shop, to give the boy at the work-bench the consideration shown by the merchant to the clerk in his store, that it is little wonder the better class of boys, who have been taught to respect themselves, shrink from apprenticeship as they see it in practice.

As I said in the commencement, there will always be social distinctions; but no law, no power on earth, no division-fence, can prevent a poor man being a gentleman, as fully developed as a rich man, and from being honored as such by all whose respect is worth the seeking. This word, "gentleman," has come to be strangely applied, and means in ordinary use anything or nothing. My

meaning when I use the term is, a man of integrity and moral worth, who shows by his course to others, and his care of himself, that he values what is honest and true and lovely and of good report, both in himself and them. Let a man, mechanic or not, spend his time in lewd and drunken company; let his choice resort to the bar-room, or let midnight find him at the gambling table or the brothel, and he will be sure to find a level far below the respect of the worthy, and where he is certain to reap all the blight and ruin that come to the degraded. Mechanics have no magic shield, any more than other men, to ward off the injuries they invite by their own imprudences. He that deliberately goes down into the valley, need have no surprise that others are above him, who have patiently toiled up hill and mountain.

If we have not yet learned the important lesson, we cannot learn it too soon—for it is a truth—that it is honorable to labor. Learn, that the drops of sweat from that labor, which cluster about thy brow, may be made to prepare it for a wreath of fame; that the mechanic at the forge may harden his muscular arm to wield a sceptre of power; that he who chips the rough granite into form may none the less be able to fashion human thought; and he who with patient skill at the work-bench smooths the gnarled and cross-grained wood, may be the man to bring order, beauty, and value out of the conflict of human opinions. Believe me, the time is fast passing away when any man can secure honor and position through idleness. Let the dainty kid glove look in scorn on the toil-worn hand;—answer the scorn with pity. For nothing in the teachings of an all-wise Providence should we feel more thankful, than the fact that God has stamped it on everything of earth, that there are dignity and honor in labor. Henceforth, wealth, distinction and success, if we achieve them, must be wrought out

by our own brain and muscle. They who lie down on roses to dream, will wake up to find that thorns have pierced them.

The day has been when the master mechanic could look into his work-shop and see many hands that he could call his own, employed for his advancement in wealth and influence; and when the farmer could ride over his many acres well tilled by laborers that the law said were his property. But these things, too, are with the past. To cast odium upon the laborer now, is but to dishonor us all. We must gird ourselves for the struggle that is before us; for it will be fierce and strong. Life is no pastime now, but a stern reality; and the theatre on which we must play our parts, will fully tax our skill and test our endurance. The world, with the altars of God and the market places of mammon; its truth and its falsehood, its solid gold and its glittering tinsel, its wealth and its poverty, its honor and its shame;—all warn us in thunder tones that this is no place to dream. It may be that to win success you will have to burn the midnight lamp. Let it be so. If you are ambitious for distinction, if you are determined to assert the fullness of your manhood, take any one calling, know no change, and inscribe on your banner success! Be patient, endure fatigue, and if it come disappointment; but never falter, for with fortitude and constancy and singleness of purpose, the goal of your ambition will be surely reached.

I speak to you as mechanics, not laborers merely. There are very many of the latter who never seek more than to make a living. They rise up in the early morning, and breakfast secured, with a small bucket in hand, they go whistling and singing to their work. These are happy in their station when employed and in health, and are useful in their place. They will most likely remain in that condition and never have a thought above it. But

you are mechanics, and that term implies both skill of hand and capacity to think.

Many of you doubtless, while your hands are occupied, send out your thoughts in search of knowledge and wisdom. You are studying how to invent something to supply a need, how to improve something already known, how to cheapen or more readily execute even the work you have in hand; for thus the mind of the thinking mechanic is ever actively at work.

So it was with that man of our own time, whose memory is revered for the contributions which his researches have made to human knowledge—the humble stone-cutter of Cromarty. He stood by the rough granite day by day, with the mallet in one hand and the chisel in the other, moulding, polishing, fashioning to his will, his eyes fixed on his labor, as the chips and fire flew from the rock; but his mind was as busy as his hand, and reason following where thought led him, he gathered and gave to us in the "Old Red Sand Stone" and "The testimony of the rocks," a monument to himself more enduring, than piled up granite could ever be, with the name of Hugh Miller deeply graven upon it.

But, you say it is only the few who can expect to attain high distinction. The great principles you lay down are true, but we are more concerned to know how men of ordinary minds may achieve independence or wealth and such success as the mass of mechanics may hope for.

This opens up a wide field for practical thought. Well directed ambition is laudable in any man. All men may rise to some height now above them by proper effort. Should we aim to elevate ourselves by pulling down and depressing others, that is not ambition but envy—one of the very vilest of the human passions, more dangerous and pernicious than the sting of a scorpion. Am-

bition that aspires to excellence in all that is good and pure, is a virtue. You should be ambitious to excel in whatever you undertake. If you are a brick-layer, you should be ambitious to lay more brick, with better mortar and smoother points, and make a well finished job in less time than any other man; if a carpenter, to have better tools, make better joints, a smoother surface, and do more work of better quality than any other carpenter; if a blacksmith, to temper your metal to stand both heat and cold, learn to weld heavy masses of iron with ease, use better iron and steel and do better work and more of it than any other in that business; if a shoemaker, to use the best materials and make work that will not rip, make a better shoe and boot, in better style and in less time, than any other workman; if a printer, to learn to set more type and more correctly in a given time, than other printers. Thus might I go through the whole catalogue of trades. The ambition I have described is a laudable ambition, and will, with a proper regard to economy, lead any and all who are guided by it, to independence and success.

It may be said that to insure success, capital is as necessary as skill; and you wish to know how that is to be obtained. I would answer that nine times in ten, the best way to get it is to work for it. Gained in this way, it comes home to stay at home, and to strengthen and encourage the owner. It is not like that which is borrowed. That belongs to another, to be returned probably when very inconvenient, and it may be with usury in addition. If you will adopt the plan and adhere to it, of spending less than you make, you will soon find your earnings accumulating on your hands; and these small savings will be a nucleus, around which will cluster other gains, increasing to an amount that will both surprise and encourage you. No man in the posession of his lib-

erty, spends so little but that he might spend less, and would, if he were in earnest to become independent. For the want of such a system of economy and thrift, many are like a man once in my employ, who consumed all his wages and at the end of the year complained that he had nothing. I told him he had one important lesson to learn, which was, that he could not both eat his cake and have it too.

You often hear men say they cannot understand how some people get along in the world so well and so rapidly. They say "I work as constantly and as hard as they do, yet I remain poor. Mr.——— a few years ago was as poor as I am, but now he carries on successfully a large business and is making money, and I am actually working in his shop for my daily pay, which barely supports me. How is that?" This would be a hard case if it could not be mended. Perhaps after all, the fault may be in him who complains. I remember visiting a large machine shop one day on business, and observed some of the employees stop work and spread out on the benches before them, sumptuous dinners. Generally, besides other meats, they had chicken, several kinds of vegetables, and some of them had pastry. Presently a small negro boy stepped up to the proprietor who was himself a working man, and said to him "Here is your dinner, sir." This dinner consisted of two rolls, and a pint tin bucket full of buttermilk. He drank his milk and eat his rolls with a good relish, sopping even the particles of butter from the sides of the bucket, and when done his frugal meal, smacked his lips and seemed as well satisfied and as ready for business as any man in the house. Now were there no other reason, this difference in the cost of living—a difference of from twenty-five to forty cents in a single dinner—in that shop, would soon make one a proprietor and the others

toilers for their daily bread, if even by labor they could pay their way. A great many men remain poor, because they are unwilling to make the necessary sacrifices of comfort and ease to become rich. They too have yet to learn that they cannot eat their cake and have it too.

There is another cause of dissatisfaction with many. They endeavor to commence life at the point, and in the style, their fathers arrived at only after long years of toil; and finding it very difficult to do, they complain bitterly of the hardness of the times, and think it strange they cannot get along smoothly. Unless they can at one stride, reach the position which it has taken another 20 or 30 years to attain, they think everything is wrong and the world sadly out of joint. John Jacob Astor was considered a man of very good sense in his day; but he could not do that, though from as poor a man as the poorest, he did become the richest of the rich in the United States. But his progress was step by step. He said "the first thousand dollars he ever made gave him more labor than all the balance of his fortune." Go surely, young man! If you go slowly, by patient toil you will reach the summit.

I regret to see around me, and connected with your society, so few of the young men of this section. This should not be so. Many of you I know to be competent and reliable; and you should have under your instruction a large number of the young men of this country, devoting time and talents to mechanic arts. The most of you know from experience, that early training, instruction, and discipline, are very important to success. If you, intelligent mechanics, do not interest yourselves in the welfare of the young men growing up around you, your places must ere long be filled by the stranger. Will you leave our native boys to be-

come mere hewers of wood and drawers of water, in that stern future which must be a future of labor to the masses of men? Shall they be left without resource beyond the pittance of a common laborer? You that are masters of shops, should have as many sprightly lads apprenticed as your business will justify, and teach them by precept and example the trades that will give them an ample and honorable livelihood. The boys of the more favored classes may still seek professions, or refuse a place at the work-bench or the forge; but the indigent boy is at your hand, and while the heart is right, will never be spurned for his poverty. From this humble condition the brightest jewels of our manhood have been polished; and industry, intellect and moral worth have fashioned their setting of the purest gold. Indeed there are but few of our prominent men, few of mark and power in place or out of it, who if they undertook to trace their genealogy, would not soon run into the mud; while there are many imbeciles now in the mire, who can easily trace their ancestry back to aristocracy. If the more affluent classes will not give their children to your training, take the humble and the poor. Treat them kindly, and as far as you can educate them; raise them up to self-respect by your friendly counsel and gentle care; teach them morals and manners and prepare them to be men. They will amply repay all you can do to the Virginia of the future.

This is more needed now than ever before. The many that yesterday were rich, are poor to-day. The prosperity and competence they thought secure have broken like a bubble in the hand. The very foundations of our social fabric have been upheaved as by an earthquake; and the roof-tree, under which our fathers rested in confident pride that it would be forever, gives no longer a shelter to their children. The past is to us like a dream, and

it will never return. Regrets are idle and tears are useless. Bend all your energies to the present need, and labor in hope for a new prosperity.

In this connection it may be well to call attention to a fact by no means unimportant, yet frequently forgotten; I mean the relation of the various classes of society to each other. This can neither be a world of farmers, nor of merchants, nor of mechanics, nor of professional men. It requires them all to make one world, and to provide the comforts necessary to one ordinary household. There is, there must continue to be, a mutual dependence of classes, as of individuals; and the only true interest that all require, that, while they work separately—and it involves no paradox—they must work together. Such a view of the great human family was well exhibited in that splendid vision of the Jewish prophet, "a wheel in the middle of the wheel," and all moving one way, and "when those went these went," and "when those stood these stood."

But there is a wider range of thought, of grave importance to all classes of our people, and of especial interest to the mechanic.

We are now in a state of transition. Socially as well as politically everything is unsettled, and as yet there is no intelligent plan of progress, no practical principles agreed on for building up prosperity. Staggered by the shock of the tempest that so fearfully swept over us, there yet lingers an apathy that is slow to realize the terrible truth of the ruin around us, and paralyzes every effort for concert of action. We must nerve ourselves to meet the occasion. Let us learn first of all that disaster is not, of necessity, the herald of despair. The very ruins will give material to the builder, and the ground has other uses than for graves. If we would be a great people, we must consent to the

changes that have come, and direct to advantage those that will rapidly follow. The sudden and complete destruction of a system of labor which by education and habit we had regarded as permanent, has been met by a stubborn indisposition in the great mass of the people, even to accustom their thoughts or adapt their habits of life to the new order of things. The few who have been able to comprehend the situation and act upon it, are today realizing larger profits than at any former period of their lives, and in proportion to the rapidity with which we wisely follow them, will be the return of general prosperity.

The greatest hindrance perhaps of any other to our success is, that the larger portion of the land of Virginia—all that was left us as property of value—is owned by the aged and infirm, or men beyond middle life, most of whom have no recuperative power, and who from the long habit of looking in one direction and using only one means, cannot possibly conceive of anything but poverty and distress in the future. And yet from agricultural products must come our first real gain, and from energetic and improved farming, our first solid advancement. Thus you will see that the development of the State chiefly devolves on the young, the ardent, and the hopeful. Our country abounds in fertile but uncultivated lands. Even in those portions of the State penetrated by railroads and navigable streams, the returns are very meagre, compared with the capacity of the soil under proper cultivation. The old system of labor destroyed, and the uncertain labor now in reach, employed in the main without system or thrift, make the prospect for the future gloomy indeed.

But this, you may think, is the farmer's business. What has the mechanic to do with it? You have much to do with it. You can, and must, by your skill and energy, place in reach of

our people, improved labor-saving machinery of every description for the farm and the household. We cannot afford to indulge any longer in the whims of prejudice. If you do not supply these necessities, others must. If you cannot invent, you must adopt the invention of others. You have no choice left. If you falter, the rush of the tide of progress will sweep you away. We look to you for labor-saving machinery that will make the work of one man equal to that of two, three, or even four men.

If you do not furnish this aid others must. The great interest at stake cannot be permitted to languish for want of facilities so necessary to its existence. I commend the subject to your careful consideration. Why should the farmer of Virginia be compelled to rely on foreigners for any implement of agriculture, when his own State abounds in iron and coal, with water power in almost every neighborhood, and no lack of the best timber in the world? Do you answer, we have always looked to foreign supply, and how can you expect us now to meet an emergency for which none are prepared, and when we are impoverished and destitute of means, both in labor and capital? I answer, there will be found enough of both for the necessity. Integrity and energy, never yet have failed!

If unfortunately, Virginia, now as heretofore, shall direct her energy and intellect to politics, and to study of legislation for the nation at large, and if her population spend all the leisure their new condition of poverty may leave them from the struggle for bread, to the discussion of principles and tactics for party victories; why then a long farewell to her greatness. There has been more than enough of this already. The great intellects of our noble old commonwealth have aimed to make her proud, rather than prosperous and rich. They have devoted their strength to

her political rather than her material interest. Beyond the memory of this generation her great men have stood before the people with a banner in each hand, slavery inscribed on one, and the maxims of their respective political creeds on the other. With these they rallied the excited masses to many a victory; but the victory was ruin, and the success desolation: for there was no science or skill in the workshops, and the fields were wilds for the want of tillage.

The staves of these old party banners are broken now: and the march of events in the past five years has torn to shreds the proud emblems which they bore. Will the sons of Virginia engage now in a wild crusade to recover a dead past, and galvanize into life the corpse of dead systems? Will they rally to the uplifting of the tattered fragments of these banners of a "lost cause," and insanely resolve that what is left of the Old Dominion shall be a wilderness? No, never!

The banner of progress is lifted now, and the multitude is on the march. Stand aside ye who are palsied by the prejudices of the past—or you will be trampled under foot without mercy!

Just here I will say, I have been often asked whether a continuance of our political troubles will not have a very injurious effect upon the general prosperity of the State, and whether we cannot and ought not to make some effort to bring about a practical restoration of the country.

I do not consider this a fit occasion to make a political speeeh, even if I were so disposed. However, amidst the deep gloom that hovers around our political horizon at this time, it may not be improper for me briefly to refer to the subject.

I feel confident that great benefit would result to the State from the speedy settlement of the political troubles of the country,

and the permanent establishment of her political status. But, however desirable this consummation may be to us, the time that will be required, and the many disagreeable tests to which we may be subjected ere it is effected, no one can now foretell.

While it is not my purpose to dwell on this subject it may be well to make a few practical suggestions in this connection.

When two sections or countries have war, and one conquers the other, the terms imposed for adjustment are the terms of the conqueror, and not of the conquered; and such terms reflect only the character of the conqueror; and if degrading or humiliating are accepted because the conquered are powerless to do otherwise.

As a rule for our conduct, we should look at things as they are, and not as we would have them.

Whatever may be the desire of the President in this crisis, he is powerless to relieve us from its pressure.

Those who look to Northern Democracy for any immediate relief, or for the restoration of our political rights, will be as much disappointed as those who look to negro slavery for the restoration of our industrial interests.

For years to come majorities will make and *execute* the laws, and minorities North or South will be the sufferers.

For weal or woe the Southern people should stand together.

However disagreeable, we should realize the fact, that, abstract rights are among the things of the past.

A little common sense is sometimes as useful in politics, as in mechanics or agriculture.

But as I say to you, let political issues continue or change as they may, the great interest of Virginia and indeed of the whole South is, to look to individual effort for material advancement,

and to push with all the vigor we possess, the hammer and the plough.

Before passing from this subject, I would direct your attention to a serious evil, from which very few, if any, are entirely exempt.

This evil is the continual croaking, in which the press and the people have so long indulged, that it has become almost universal. One of the principal causes that have tended to aggravate this restless and unhappy spirit has been the failure of Congress to present any plan as a *finality*, for the practical restoration of the country. In this particular the plan now proposed is defective; because it leaves the people in doubt as to what will be the final result. While many believe that if the present plan be accepted by the South, restoration, peace and quiet, will be practically secured, yet there are others who express fears and apprehensions. Whatever be the result, we should not be unmindful that nothing but evil can come from this constant manifestation of hopelessness and despair.

Those of us who have made up our minds to share the fate of Virginia, whatever may be her destiny, cannot look with indifference on the continual drain from the State of her noblest and best young men. Many of these are induced to this course by the repeated declarations of older heads, that their native State is ruined beyond the hope of redemption; that Negro Suffrage will render her uninhabitable for white people; and that nothing but poverty and desolation will be left her.

This should not be so. We have other interests than those of politics. We should remember that whatever may be the changes in our political condition, our soil remains, and our glorious climate is beyond the influence of legislation.

We should not forget, that, in many portions of the State, well

directed labor in the field never gave larger net profits than at present; and there is a fair prospect for a continuance of this in future, whether she be Virginia or District No. 1. No country in the world offers greater inducements for industry and enterprise in agriculture and the mechanic arts than does Virginia at this time.

I say it here, and would say it the world, that Virginia is not, and cannot be ruined, proscription or no proscription, negro suffrage or no negro suffrage. The day will come when her fields will blossom as the rose; when the mechanic arts will flourish, and the locomotive's whistle be heard within her borders, where they were never known before.

I would appeal to our noble young men. We would speak to them in words of affection and truth. Be not driven by these croakings and evil prophecies, from your dear old mother State, in the extremity of her need. However great the political oppressions may seem. that now test your indurance, they cannot, they will not, last always.

We must devise systematic plans for progress. The great questions, how to secure labor and capital, must be met practically; and especially the question of labor in its broader aspects. It is clear that we cannot develope Virginia without a suitable and sufficient population. The negro labor must soon pass away or be less available to us, and we must adopt some feasible and practical plan to increase our population.

We should, with as little delay as possible, make arrangements to secure large numbers of the better classes of European emigrants, to settle and cultivate our unoccupied lands. It is not the mere labor we want; for if we only sought how to replace the negro with white working hands, we would necessarily get a

refuse population, the very dregs of the old world, that would be of little value as hirelings and might prove a serious disadvantage. We want an intelligent class of immigrants who will come with their families, and bring capital sufficient to purchase and stock small farms, and who will help to make up an industrious and moral population. This is the most important subject before the people of Virginia to-day. Let the Legislature establish, under the fostering care of the State, an Immigration Bureau, to be administered by the best talents of the commonwealth. Let that bureau, by proper system, procure a reliable map of each county with a full description of soil, minerals, &c. Let these maps and descriptions be as exact as possible, and show plainly the character of soil, the products adapted to each, the minerals if any known, and how situated, the water power, and how located, with the roads, canals and all the facilities for transportation. From these it would be easy to get such a description and such a view of the whole State as immigrants could understand. Accompanying these, I would invite a description, with location and quality and price, of all the lands in the State for sale or lease, and evidence of title. Provided with such a fund of reliable information, let the bureau be empowered to send efficient agents to Germany and other countries of Europe to invite and influence the right kind of immigrants to Virginia. Let provision be made for bringing these immigrants directly here, without passing through any Northern State, and thus avoid any contest for their posession : for such as we could thus secure would be very desirable any where. Such a system would soon bring purchasers of our surplus lands, and thickly dot the face of the country with pleasant and thrifty homes. These agents might also induce men of science and men of capital, to bring machine-

ry and develope the mineral wealth of the State, and save the untold strength of water power from wasting, for want of skill, enterprise and capital to turn it to account.

It is also certain that we cannot reach the height of prosperity which belongs to a great people, until we provide for the interests of internal improvement and commerce, on broad and liberal principles. Railroads should be made wherever the people desire them and have the means to build them. The selfish policy of monopolists, and the petty jealousy of local rivalries, will always impede such improvements; but the intelligence of the people must be directed to foster the largest public good.

The great Southern ports of entry, particularly the port of Norfolk, must invite by energetic and sustained effort, a direct commerce with the trade of the world, and must secure without the intervention of any Northern agency, all the supplies that the uses of men require. Much has been already lost to us because our attention and energies have been confined to agricultural staples; and the very idea of entering the race with the Northern States for commercial development, is one so new to us that we scarcely know where or how to commence. But we must begin somewhere. The facilities of transportion, and a free choice of markets are as necessary as the products of the soil, and the industry which cultivates it, in augmenting the profits of our enterprise. We do not propose to enter on this new course of action from any political motive, based on hate of any other section, but because it is the true interest of our own State and section.

The course of trade during our old system of slave labor, was entirely through the agency of Northern harbors, ships, and even roads. It is so now; and under the new condition of things, its continuance must be fatal to any real independence. If we ship

tobacco from Virginia to any Southern city it must first go to New York there to be re-shipped, because there are no Southern ports that offer the facilities of a direct trade. Our necessities compel us to this double shipment, and our very interest makes us pay this tribute to swell the wealth of other States, because even under this burden we get to our market at a cheaper rate and in a shorter time than we can without their agency. But why not do the work ourselves, and instead of giving the enormous profits of the carrying trade to others to build up their wealth and power, save it to enrich our own people? It we would prosper we must have the means of direct transportation for Southern products to Southern and foreign ports, in Southern vessels. When the outer world sees that we are in earnest to help ourselves, it will come to aid, in that only way in which help is desirable—by working with us. The ships of other nations would load and unload side by side with ours, in the same harbors, and exchange friendly greeting as they hurried past on the ocean. highways. This is a great work in itself, and demands vital and fundamental changes in our habits of thought and action.

We need not suppose that those who have so long held us in commercial vassalage, will be so ready to give up that system as they were to abolish African slavery. They will struggle to retain the commercial mastery; but in this matter our freedom is in our choice. While we should be energetic, we should wage no other than a generous rivalry; but they are strong of hand and of will, and we shall require all the strength we can fairly command. We should not spurn help from any quarter. When good and true men come to settle among us, from any section, bringing energy or capital, or both, we should welcome them as workers with us for Southern prosperity. It matters not what

may be their prejudices of education or habit, or even their sectional jealousies. Soon, very soon, under similar influences and laboring for common ends, as the same fire prepares two pieces of iron far a welding heat, and sends one glow and one temper through the whole uniting mass, as laid on the same anvil, the merrily ringing hammers announce the progress of an enduring union—so shall these differences yield to a common interest and a common feeling, until those whom they once separated will almost forget that they had ever been other than united. The same laws that would protect our interest would protect theirs also, and there could exist no reason why their presence or their citizenship should not promote and strengthen the prosperity and real greatness of the State, and aid and stimulate all in the great work we have to do.

At the hazard of two great length, I must ask indulgence for a few remarks on the subject of education. The South has never come up to the measure of duty in this regard. In the schools we have founded, but little care has been taken to provide for the poorer classes. The colleges have been appropriated generally by the rich, and the academies have been wholly inadequate to meet the wants of the people. To none is a sound education more important than to the mechanic. How often for the lack of early mental training, has he been compelled with all the odds against him, painfully to toil at self-instruction; while many, disheartened by the difficulties that beset them, have consented to remain in ignorance. Now that Congress has made liberal appropriations to be used for education, they should not be disposed of without proper consideration. Some wise plan should be devised that will place in reach of all classes the opportunity of sound instruction in practical knowledge. All our educational resources

from whatever quarter should be directed to work out the ideas of a new and living age. To make the Federal endowment most available, it should be appropriated to a new educational enterprise, designed to secure practical benefits to the masses.

Locate a college at some central point, easy of access—either at Richmond, Petersburg, Lynchburg or Staunton, but for many reasons Richmond might be regarded as the most eligible—with single and sincere purpose so to educate the young men of the State, as to prepare them to lead off in the development of all the material interests of Virginia. Attached to this college might be a small farm so provided that the students could experiment with seeds, soils, and fertilizers, and see and practically learn the value of all the different kinds of labor saving machines. Such an education should be provided for, as will best prepare for usefulness. And while careful for this practical knowledge, we should not neglect the advantages that are found in the old systems of instruction. We would not give up science for the plough, but plough scientifically. We would not neglect mathematics in order to study machinery, but teach the youth the dependence of one upon the other. How necessary for the farmer to know the constituents of the soil he cultivates, and what it needs to realize the largest harvest; but scientific knowledge is required for such analysis.

A gentlemen of Virginia, who, before the war, was an able professor in the Military Institute, seeing the great need of increasing the production of the soil, as the best means of bringing hope and prosperity to the people, determined to devote himself to this end, and is now applying his educated mind to the compounding of fertilizers adapted to the various soils and productions of Virginia and the whole south; and is thus probably doing more than

any other one man to speed the progress of our agricultural interest. This gentleman is Col. William Gilham, chemist of the Southern Fertilizing Company of Richmond. Such knowledge as he possesses should be made, through the schools, the common possession of our people. Every farmer should know how to apply to his own soils, the tests that science furnishes and feel that he is not bestowing labor and capital at random.

Let us establish a college such as referred to, under the fostering care of the State. Then, when she shall be relieved of her present political troubles, and start out on a new career of prosperity and power, she can with small expenditure extend a uniform system over the whole State, by the establishment of primary schools, and thus put new life into the masses of her people, as education shall become the common posession of all.

Let these things be done and Virginia would soon show signs of improvement that would be permanent; and soon, in place of bushes, briers, broom grass and ruins, as seen along many of our railroads and public highways at this time, there would be wealth, strength, capital and influence, even though she still remained politically powerless.

But I must close this address. Your association now in its infancy, has, we may hope, a future of prosperity; and I trust that its riper experience will exhibit rich returns to its members, in accumulated stores of wisdom, and the practical knowledge that benefits the moral life, elevates the character, and leads to independence. I doubt not you will seek to lay your plans wisely but plan as you may, without the co-operation of woman you cannot succeed. The kindly, gentle influence of woman is too little regarded as a power; and yet to her must we look not merely to adorn and grace the pageant when we are victors in the life

struggle, but to go with us, step by step, up every weary hill. Full often the only brightness in the gloom, comes from her smiles, and the only word of cheer that lightens labor comes from her lips. That man knows but little of the springs of human action, who does not give to woman a large place as a worker with him in his plans for success. The wife keeps the key of the house, and as she wills, it is often determined whether prosperity or adversity shall come in. A poor man struggling and saving, with a wife carelessly or extravagantly squandering, is a sight almost as much to be deplored, and which as much precludes all ideas of success in life, as if he were to be seen worse than wasting his earnings in revelry, while her youth and affection were fading out in the lonely toil, of a dreary home. They must work together. When he saves she must save. When care and toil bear heavy on him, she can inspire him with strength for the need. Seldom will woman fail to be a helper to him who is worthy of her. It is not just to her nature or her worth, to treat her as a mere thing of beauty, or as a toy for pleasure. Give her, as belongs to her, a higher position than this. Her place is by your side te strengthen, to encourage, to labor with you in the dusty, sultry heat, and comfort and sustain you when the way is cold and dreary. The true woman will not thank you for making her an idol for romance to worship; but she asks to share whatever is of value and honor to man in the struggles and in the homes of earth, as both her right and her glory. Let woman feel that you honor her for her worth, that you respect her rights and will defend them, and with the certainty of intuition, she will honor and respect you. And when with this feeling, she goes with you in the joyousness of her youth from the vows of the altar to the duties of a new home, with the constancy of the sun she will

cherish and comfort you. And the fair maidens, the daughters of such mothers, who look to you, young men, so lovely; who bring back to you your dreams of angels; for whose smiles you sigh, and whose hearts, it is your first and most fervent wish to possess; when these look on you and think of you as mechanics, it will be to honor you. They will know that they can lean without fear: where there is strength to support, and feel that their earthly happiness will be safe in the keeping of your energy and truth.

Addressing you both as mechanics and as men, I make as a last, but by no means the least important suggestion, that you should carefully remember the truth which the homely old adage teaches us: "What is worth doing at all is worth doing well." There is much more in this than appears on its face, to the careless observer. Doing, and doing *well*, are not always companions. It is doing well that makes results valuable. It is this which makes that superiority in men which we call greatness. It is this which invites and then secures confidence in a man's integrity, and stamps on his pretensions the seal of ability. There is no one, however humble, who may not elevate his character by adherence to this maxim, and the wisest and best may profit by its truth.

Thus, with what ability I possess, I have presented thoughts that appear to me of value to us all. Another standing in my place, might counsel you in phrase of better choice, but none with more earnest desire for your welfare and improvement. I feel that our interests are one, and that we are mutually dependent. Why should we not take counsel together in the darkness that envelops the land? We may caution each other of the perils of the way, and even through the gloom may call to one another with words of cheer, and natural encouragement patiently to toil

on until we emerge into the better light that will reward our waiting and working, and bid us rejoice together at the return of gladness and prosperity.

It has been recorded that MAJOR SUTHERLIN took a warm interest in Randolph-Macon College. In 1872 he established the "Sutherlin Medal" for oratory. He was for many years a trustee of the College, and was a trustee at the time of his death. He was invited by the members of the Washington and Franklin Literary Societies to deliver an address before them in the Commencement session of 1880. He did so, and the following is a copy of the Address :

Officers and Members of the Washington and Franklin Literary Societies, and Ladies and Gentlemen :

It was with much hesitation that I accepted your kind invitation to address you on this interesting occasion ; not that I was reluctant to serve you in any way that I felt able, but from a distrust of my ability to meet the requirements of the occasion.

Your invitation naturally brought to my mind the extended renown of this time-honored seat of learning. I thought of her many distinguished sons scattered throughout the land, in nearly every State of this Union, North, South, East and West, and some in foreign lands, who have achieved honors and fame, whose reflected lustre illuminates the renown of their beloved *Alma mater.*

I thought, too, of the intellectual, cultivated and appreciative audiences usually attending your commencement exercises, and I

considered how difficult it would be for me to give you an address which, in interest and entertainment, would measure up to the expectations of such an audience. I could not but feel the disadvantages under which he labors who has not had the good fortune to share in the great benefits which this noble insiitution of learning confers upon those who have been educated within her walls; as I naturally shrank from the comparison of my efforts with the brilliant abilities of the college-bred speakers who have addressed you on former-like occasions.

And yet it is a pleasing reflection, that, although my youthful days were spent in the arduous pursuits of life far different from the refining influences of college halls, yet, the devotion of my maturer years to the present of dear old Randolph-Macon, has proven my appreciation of her noble character.

Though she was not the "cherishing mother" of my youth, yet, I hope that my twenty-five years of sincere devotion to her welfare may allow me to claim her as my *alma mater* by adoption, and to hold her in the tender regard of at least an affectionate step-son.

As my life has been devoted almost exclusively to business enterprises, having for their object the development of the material interests of the country, I take it that you have ventured upon a new departure in inviting me to address you on this occasion, and that you expect me to give you a practical talk rather than a literary or a scientific address. However far I may fall short of your expectations in other respects, in this particular, at least, I hope I shall not disappoint you.

Virginia has been distinguished for her devotion to higher education from her earliest days till the present. Even when she was but a Colony under allegiance to the British Crown, the col-

lege of William and Mary was established at her Colonial Capital; and more than a century ago it was her pride to nourish and send forth her sons, fully equipped to grapple with the intellectual giants of the old world. Steadily since then has she pressed forward in the noble cause of education, and to-day she can boast of her University, her Military Institute, her Agricultural and Mechanical college, and her several Normal Colleges, established and supported by appropriatious from the treasury; and I may extend the illustrious list, by adding the name of Washington and Lee University, Emory and Henry College, Hampden Sidney, Richmond College, Roanoke and other colleges, besides dear old Randolph-Macon; and also her numerous colleges and other institutions, in all parts of the State, for the education of her daughters, besides her many High schools for both sexes, of less prominence, perhaps, but of no less value and usefulness in the cause of education. With such an array of seats of learning and facilities for education, our old Dominion may justly claim to be the peer of any sister State in educational advantages, and boast the honor and benefit of possessing some of the most eminent scientists and educators in the world.

In addition to her Universities and her numerous colleges and high schools. Virginia has established and maintains at public expense, a most extensive and enlightened system of public free schools, which are gradually growing in favor among all classes of her people, and give promise, at no distant day, to supply the place of the private schools of corresponding grade. For the support of these free schools, Virginia expended $1,535,289.11 out of her revenues last year: 7,161 male and female teachers were employed, and 325,184 children, white and colored received instruction.

These numerous and valuable educational facilities must, in the near future, produce a wonderful improvement in the intelligence, progress and growth of the State.

In view of the fact that the University, the Military Institute and the Normal colleges are supported in large part by direct appropriations from the State treasury, and that the State makes liberal provisions for the education of a large number of her sons at those institutions without change, comparatively speaking, for tuition, and it is sometimes asked what necessity is there for Randolph-Macon and other denominational colleges, which have to be maintained in such large part by private contributions? I think I can truly say for Randolph-Macon that she is supported mainly by the Methodists of Virginia and Baltimore conferences, because they feel it to be important that there shall be a seat of learning like this, where young men identified with the church of their fathers cannot only secure a thorough collegiate education, but at the same time receive a faithful training in the truths of revealed religion under the guidance and instruction of an able and God-fearing faculty, who not only strive to store the student's mind with secular learning, but also fill his heart with the love of our Heavenly Father. If this reason for the existence of this grand old institution needed any endorsement, it would be found in the fact that she has furnished the private walks of life with many illustrious examples of piety, and the pulpit with many of the noblest, purest, and ablest preachers of their day. That the blessing of God has been bestowed upon the colleges of the Methodist and other churches, in all parts of the country filled by her devoted sons.

Not only do her sons fill many of the highest, as well as the most useful positions in the church throughout the country, but

they are also found in the halls of legislation, on the bench, in all the learned professions, and in every prominent and honorable position and vocation, many of them carrying through life the religious impressions made upon their youthful minds by the teachings and examples of the Christian men from whom they received their daily instruction within these walls.

The college is entrenched in the affections of its patrons and supporters, and stands forth to-day in all her glory, surrounded by her admiring friends, a bright star in the galaxy of the institutions of learning, with a future as brilliant as the noon-day sun, Verily, she is a child of providence: "a house built upon a rock" and cannot fall.

The earliest history of education in Virginia, to which I have already referred, is a proud monument to the glory of her people, but it may be useful to remember that the educational advantages of those early years were sought almost exclusively by such young men as were destined for what were called the learned professions, such as law and medicine. For a farmer's or merchant's son, who intended to follow the vocation of his father, the simplest rudiments of education were considered sufficient. But many and rapid have been the changes in Virginia in this respect since those early days. And while a higher order of education has become more general among our people, it is especially gratifying that the great benefits derived therefrom are enjoyed by the masses in the aid afforded for the development of their practical interests. Higher education has thus become the refined and refining hand-maid of industry, and is made subservient to the advancement of the people in the common affairs of business and domestic life.

In this view, I do not think I could do you a better service

than to direct your attention to the great value of education as a help to success in the practical pursuits of life.

In former days, as I have already remarked, it was not deemed necessary that a young man should receive more than an ordinary English education unless he intended to devote himself to professional pursuits; yet, even under those conditions, there were many young men who received a college education but could find no field at home for the employment of such advantages, and it was only by emigrating to more inviting fields in the great west, that they could utilize the advantages their liberal education gave them.

Many of them did, in this way, find positions in remote regions where they made themselves useful and became eminent and valuable citizens, reflecting great credit upon their mother State, by filling stations of the highest honor and trust, both State and national, in the homes of their adoption. But those large and inviting fields in other sections are now being pretty generally filled by their own sons, who are educated at the numerous colleges established in the last few years within their own borders, and this necessarily curtails the draft upon Virginia and the other older States for educated men to fill the various positions and professions there required.

It is true that Virginia is now supplying many of these new institutions in other sections with valuable and useful members of their faculties, but it is only natural to presume that even those positions will hereafter be filled by men brought up and educated in the several localities in which these new colleges are situated.

But it is equally true, that whilst the opportunities elsewhere for the educated young men of Virginia may have been lessened,

such has been the progress and growth of the country in all its material interests, that new fields for their employment have been opened. The railroad lines and the numerous manufacturing enterprises springing up in every part of the country, present unnumbered opportunities and make unlimited demands for young men of the highest order of education and scientific knowledge for their perfect development and success. The assurance thus afforded that their services will be needed should stimulate the young men of the present day to strive for the highest attainments in knowledge and learning.

In railroad construction lines have been opened and are in successful operation that were regarded in former times as utterly impracticable, and this has been done by means of scientific knowledge, heretofore unknown, or at least not applied. In fact, engineering and architecture have been so advanced in recent years that their seems to be no difficulty in their line that cannot be overcome. No higher honor can be attained by any man than to become a master in these professions. The knowledge and skill of the engineer and architect are not only useful and necessary in the construction of railroads, but they are also absolutely essential in the successful establishment of every plant for manufacturing and other enterprises. No individual or company will entertain the idea of engaging in such industries without first securing the aid of some engineer and architect, eminent in his profession, to examine the site and furnish plans for the superstructure and machinery.

There are also to-day thousands of men of the highest learning and scientific knowledge who are constantly employed in the investigation and study of new devices and means to cheapen the cost of production and increase the profit to the producer of the

various articles made and consumed in this and other countries.

Geology is also furnishing one of the largest and most important fields for tne scientific research of man, and it is through his intelligent and laborious investigation in that field that the various articles created by God for the use of man, but hitherto hidden in the bosom of the earth, are being brought to light and utilized.

The great advance in the science of chemistry is enabling us to-day to use many and various substances with great profit that were heretofore considered valueless.

The manufacture and practical use of electricity seem to have been left for the most part to the men of this generation, and they have discovered its utility and applied it.

It is only within recent years that scientists have advanced sufficiently in the knowledge of nature's laws as to be able to foretell with some degree of accuracy the changes of the weather twenty-four hours and more in advance of their coming.

By like advances, the telephone, the art of stenography, typewriting and other like inventions have been discovered and brought into practical, every-day use.

I might go on and enumerate many other useful discoveries, which are the products of the educated and scientific mind, to cheapen and improve the facilities for transacting business in every department of life.

Not only have the discoveries thus made by the industrious and laborious efforts of the man of education and scientific knowledge been attained and applied to the urban arts of life. but we also see that by the same process improved machinery and implements have been provided for the agriculturist by which he is enabled to vastly increase the production of the soil at greatly

reduced cost. By this higher order of education and scientific investigation the tiller of the soil has not only been enabled to improve his methods of cultivating, but he has also been enabled the better to select his seed for planting and to improve their quality. He has also been enabled to improve the breeds of the various domestic animals with which his farm is stocked.

So marvellous, indeed, is the success of recent increase in production and improvement in modes of cultivating, that a few years ago it would have been regarded as incredible and impossible.

In view of such astonishing results by enlarged learning in these last few years in the respects mentioned, we are led to think that the mind of man is capable of accomplishing almost anything in the future.

Who can tell what new discoveries may be made in the next few years?

Our Universities and Colleges are straining every energy to advance all the various branches of learning, and are vieing with each other in their efforts to attain the highest possible standard in all branches of educational and scientific knowledge. I might enlarge upon this view of the situation, because it embraces the very foundation and basis of the moral structure, which in the future is to give to the American people the ascendency over all other countries in progress, knowledge and the arts of civilization.

May I not pause here to ask, is it any wonder that I, and other men who did not share in early life in the benefits and advantages conferred by these noble institutions of learning, should advocate and desire their greatest prosperity and usefulness?

But, young gentlemen, we must remember that while the opportunities to reach the highest point of eminence in the various professions and scientific pursuits of life are open to all in this

free country of ours, the great mass of mankind, including a vast number of the most highly educated men, fall far short of success in life.

In many cases this results from the failure to adopt some fixed profession or calling. Few men ever attain eminence in more than one thing. To attain success it is necessary to adopt some one calling and study and labor to succeed in that, supplementing, of course, your knowledge in such other matters as will assist you in the prosecution of your one single calling. Your education should be directed, as far as practicable, along such lines as will assist you in accomplishing the greatest usefulness and success in your chosen pursuit. It may, indeed, be not unwise to study and acquire a knowledge of all the various branches of learning, if abundant time and opportunity will permit it, but you should never fail to economize your time so as to devote most of it and expend your most ardent energies in prosecuting those branches of study which relate especially to that vocation which you intend to adopt. It is but too frequently the case that we see young men who have graduated in all the branches of education usually taught in the colleges, and yet are unfit for any one of the practical dutles of life. A friend of mine not long since, desired the services of an assistant to aid him in the discharge of his daily routine business. A college-bred young gentleman, who had just graduated, proudly presented his diploma and offered for the place, but my friend had to decline this young gentleman's offer because he was not qualificd to perform any of the duties required of him. It is not always a fact, as is generally supposed, that education makes the man. It sometimes makes the fool. It no more makes the man than declamation makes the orator.

I once employed a young man because he was a graduate of an Agricultural College, but I very soon ascertained that there was nothing about the farm which he could do. He had a good knowledge of the theory of farming, but had none of the qualifications to put it into practice. He had mistaken his calling.

It might not be amiss to say right here, that I think many of our colleges would be materially improved if they would enlarge their curriculum so as to embrace more of the subjects of study relating to practical life, so that a young man might select such studies as would best fit him for the business in life which he intends to follow. Especially does this seem necessary to me because so many of our young men are without the means to take a full collegiate course.

While all these things are true, it is admitted that no one can become really great in all the elements which constitute the highest type of man without a thorough education.

The real man is like the rough granite, and it takes the chisel, the hammer and the polish to give him a perfect finish.

And yet, some of the most eminently successful men that this country has produced never went to college at all. It may not be out of place for me to mention a few of such men, who, without the aid of collegiate education, have rendered their names distinguished by their eminent success in life.

George Peabody, who never attended a college, stands at the head of the list as the greatest philanthropist who ever lived or died in this or any other country. His name will ever live in the history and in the hearts of the people as the most generous and liberal benefactor of this or any other age. His great financial ability enabled him, through a kind Providence, to accumulate an immense fortune. During his lifetime he donated several

millions of dollars for the relief of suffering and destitute humanity. He also appropriated millions of dollars to educational purposes, the chief part of which he appropriated for "the promotion and encouragement of intellectual, moral, and industrial education among the young of the more destitute portions of the Southern and Southwestern States of the Union."

Cornelius Vanderbilt, commonly called Commodore Vanderbilt, of New York, was a man of great natural abilities, but of so little education that he could not write a note of ten lines without misspelling several words and committing many inaccuracies of grammar.

One night he was deploring this deficiency to his friend and pastor, Rev. Dr. Deems. The Doctor asked him if he found his lack of education an embarrassment to him in his business intercourse? He said he always felt it when dealing with men who had not a fourth of his natural sense, but could express their ideas properly. This, he said, was especially the case with him when he was in England.

"Then it is unfortunate" said the Doctor, that you have such sentiments, for I do not know any man who stands in the way of popular education as you do. The Commodore was surprised and pained at this remark of his pastor, and asked him what he meant by it. Dr. Deems told him there were hundreds of young men, some of whom he knew personally, who said that an education was not needful, and appealed to the immense success of Commodore Vanderbilt to prove it, as he had been an uneducated boy who had made himself a millionaire, and founded a rich family. The Doctor also told him that thousands would take refuge behind his name to neglect education after he was dead and gone.

The old Commodore protested that he would not have that to occur on any account; he did not want generations to think him a lucky fool. He appealed to Dr. Deems to tell him how such a catastrophe could be avoided, and the Doctor told him that the most complete, conclusive and permanent refutation would be the setting aside of a million of dollars to found a University bearing his name.

He afterwards determined to do so if the proper men could be found to take charge of the enterprise, and we know that Dr. Deems did find the right man in a distinguished *alumums* of Randolph-Macon College, Bishop McTyeire. The accumulated wealth of this uneducated, but eminently successful man, was estimated at between $80,000,000 and $100,000,000, at the time of his death.

The philanthropist, Johns Hopkins, of Maryland, died at the age of seventy eight years, possessed of more than $10,000,000, acquired by his own efforts. He worked upon his father's farm near Baltimore, until he was eighteen years of age, and never had any of the advantages of education. About six years before his death he gave $3,500,000 to found the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore, which embraces schools of law, medicine, science and agriculture and publishes the results of the researches of students and professors.

Samuel Miller, of Lynchburg, Va., was an orphan boy born in Albemarle county. When quite a young man he located in Lynchburg, and by his industry and frugality, but without education, he amassed great wealth and died a millionaire, at the age of seventy-seven years. By his will he left the bulk of his wealth, amounting to over a million and a quarter of dollars to his native county, in a fund which he denominated "The Miller Fund" to

found that magnificent monument to his philanthropy which has been established in his native county and is known as "The Miller Manual Labor School."

To this institution are admitted the poor orphan children and other white children whose parents are unable to educate them. Now there are eleven teachers and two hundred and forty pupils in the school—one hundred and seventy-four boys and sixty-six girls, all of whom are clothed, fed, taught and cared for wholly at the expense of the school.

Mr. James Thomas, of Richmond, was another Virginian, who, without the advantages of collegiate education, died a millionaire. In addition to large donations to his church, he contributed $50,000 to the endowment fund of Richmond College.

Governor David L. Swain of North Carolina, never had any college training but he raised himself to such eminence in the estimation of his fellow citizens that they made him their Governor and afterwards president of their State University at Chapel Hill. It has been jocularly said of him that North Carolina made him Governor and then sent him to her University to be educated.

This honorable list might be lengthened out by adding many like instances, but I have confined myself to a few persons who have lived and died in our day. These are sufficient, however, to show that these men who have achieved noted success in this country without the advantages of collegiate education, have, without an exception as far as I can recall them to memory, left unmistakable evidence of their desire to promote the liberal education of those who were to come after them.

I may be permitted to state that I was present, many years ago, at a meeting of a committee to prepare a very important paper. Several of the committee were men of the most thorough educa-

tion, but one short sentence gave great trouble in expression of the thought and idea intended to be conveyed, and many were the efforts made to convey the exact idea desired, all of which failed, and the only uneducated man present constructed the sentence to meet the views of all, and the most brilliant man in the committee remarked "You have struck exactly the idea but it is bad grammar," when the uneducated man remarked "If I have furnished the *sense* you can supply the *grammar*."

I think I can truly say that the more education a young man has the better are his chances for success in life.

Young gentlemen, some of you close your collegiate course with the end of this session. You will receive your diplomas and go forth into the world to contend with the labor, care, and conflicts of life. If you have not already done so, I would respectfully recommend that, after carefully considering the question, you seselect such calling as will be best suited to your taste, physical strength, general capacity, and disposition, and then pursue it with such energy and devotion as will bring success. It is sometime the case with beginners in life that they are not content until they have tried almost every pursuit. This is not judicious or wise and, in many cases, results in great waste of time.

Another important matter is to secure such location for your future home, as will give you the greatest advantages for the business you intend to follow.

John Jacob Astor, one of the most successful men in the accumulation of wealth of his day, said that the first $1,000 which he accumulated was the most difficult, and this has been the experience of many men who commenced life poor. Your greatest difficulty, in this day will probably be, not to accumulate the

$1,000, but to keep it. Most men in this age find it more difficult to keep than to make the first $1,000.

Many people in this country estimate a man's success in life by his accumulation of wealth, and make that the standard of his worth. We know instances where the largest accumulations of wealth have been made, according to the public estimation, at the sacrifice of all the higher qualities of man. In many cases the greater the accumulation the more sordid and harder have the feelings become, and where this is the case the better parts of the man are never manifested, or if ever, not until just before his career is ended. I would urge upon you not to allow the accumulation of wealth to become your standard of excellence, but remember, if you should be more fortunate than your fellows in the acquisition of money, that a kind Providence has bestowed upon you this distinction, and you should repay as you go this obligation and not take the chance to redeem it in bulk at the close of your existence. Those who succeed to your hard-earned gains, might defeat your wishes.

Young gentlemen, I have thus hurriedly presented to you some facts which I hope you may be able to make useful to yourselves in future years.

It has been jocularly suggested that I ought to make some reference to a subject that often occupies much of the thoughts of students before and after graduating. Students in some respects are not unlike other boys, and in arranging their plans for future life, they seldom fail to consider the beautiful as well as the practical, and there is nothing that relates to the beautiful that does not point to *woman!* There is no state or condition of life that exempts a man from the contemplation of securing a partner to share his troubles and joys, and it is not unfrequently the case

that this is the first and greatest question with him ; and whether rich or poor, high or low, educated or not, the mind of the youth and man as naturally turns to woman as the sparks fly upward. And this we would not change if we could, for the most beautiful, lovely, attractive object created by God is woman.

It may not be out of place to relate for your information and instruction a little history in the life of a friend that came under my direct observation. Soon after my friend reached his teens, he, like most boys, concluded he must look around among the fair sex for some one to share his love and be a companion for him in life. With buoyant spirits and the hopes of youth he soon made the acquaintance of Miss Patience ———, who was the personification of loveliness, her figure, hair, eyes, complexion and disposition far exceeded, in his estimation, all others on earth. His visits to her were generally about once in two weeks and sometime oftener; he would labor on his father's farm all the week, but when Saturday came he was restless until mounted and on his way to the home of this lovely girl. His constant study was to invent some way by which he could make her his wife, but he and she both were poor and proud, the combined wits of both failed to develop the ways and means of a respectable living for them by daily labor, and the prospect of poverty weighed so heavily upon them that, by mutual consent, they finally agreed to break the engagement and mend their fortunes before they ventured upon the uncertain, though attractive, sea of matrimony.

My young friend turned his mind again to the plow, but the hot sun and the fatigue and labor of farm life soon caused him to look around for a more rapid way of accumulating a competency that would relieve him from the burdens of labor in the

fields, and he heard of a nice young lady in a neighboring State who, though not possessed of any of the peculiar charms that especially attracted him at first, was rich. After one or two visits to her father's house, where he saw the broad acres, the large number of slaves, the fine crops, splendid stock, elegant residence and beautiful yard, and large oak trees that furnished such delightful shade, the contemplation that one day this might become his own home took hold upon his mind. So thoroughly impressed was he with the idea of this beautiful home and its surroundings. that his mind turned away from the home of his father's and the labor and cares of farm life, as he saw it. The object of his visits began to lose her homely looks; her manner became more attractive, and instead of the ugly and unattractive appearance which she first presented to him, with her freckled face, pug nose, grey eyes, big feet and bungling step, she was rapidly becoming beautiful. That uncomely appearance she first presented to him, was fast passing away, and the more he saw of her delightful home, the rich lands, many slaves, the shade trees, and the prospect of acquiring a fortune so cheap and so easy, the more beautiful they made the young lady of his affections grow at every visit. He was young, handsome, and, for one of his attainments, very attractive, and with a power of will equal to his ambition. She postponed her decision, but he saw evidences of the impression he was making and felt encouraged to press his suit with all the energy and vim he possessed, and at times imagined himself already seated in the grassy yard surrounded by flowers with the rich foliage of the noble old original forest trees protecting him from the scorching sun.

While reflecting on this beautiful landscape, he became, at times, almost wild with excitement and enthusiasm. His old

home was fast losing its attractions for him. With him old things were fast passing away and all things were becoming new. His heart was light and he was rapidly approaching the zenith of his ambition. He was steadily and rapidly marching on to the day when he would say: "Soul take thine ease." His visits were in rapid succession and he was all devotion and love, giving great care to his dress and personal appearance. He was leaving nothing undone that would contribute to his chances of success.

At last he reached a point when a final answer was to be given on his next visit. For the first time his spirits began to droop, and for the first time his mind began to ponder what he was doing. Reflection and thought only added to his intense interest. He had but a few days for reflection before he was to receive the final decision. He became restless and impatient, and the panorama that had so dazzled his mind and thoughts began to open up to him in its true light, and so intense was the agony that he sprang to his feet and exclaimed to himself: "Am I a man? Have I the spirit of a man in me? Yes, I have now passed the age when the law says I am a man. My father recognizes my claim to manhood. Then, if I be a man, why am I seeking to do that which is unmanly by marrying a woman I do not love simply to become rich quickly? It is not just to her, and it is not just to myself. I have health, energy and strength to make my own fortune, and, so help me God, I will never marry that woman, even if she accepts me, without first telling her I do not love her, and that my desire for a fortune quickly is my great object in seeking her hand."

In this state of mind he made his last visit, and, to his great relief, in a firm but gentle way she said to him, "Mr. ——— I have carefully considered the question and have decided not to

accept your offer of marriage. You are young, without any fixed business or habits of life and I have thought it best to decline your offer."

He quietly accepted the decision and once more returned to his old home, a wiser and better man, with the full determination to go to work, establish himself in business, and make a reputation for himself that would entitle him to the confidence and respect of the community, and never again to seek a fortune through matrimony, and when he had accomplished that purpose, he would seek to marry a woman of his choice with whom he could go through life with success and joy.

True to his pledges, he did, after a few years, establish himself in a good business, making some money with fair credit, and a future that attracted the attention and admiration of his friends; and then he sought the hand of a lady who appreciated him for his worth, accepted his offer, and they were married and have lived happily together for about forty years, without a jar between her and him to mar the pleasure of a happy and joyous life; and that lady is here to-day and if, after saying this, I dared, I would introduce you to her.

May this blessed old college continue to grow and prosper until she shall attain the eminence in numbers and usefulness contemplated by her noble founders more than a half century ago.

May the officers and members of the Washington and Franklin Societies connected with Randolph-Macon each become a man of great power and value for usefulness in all that is good and pure in the land; and may success attend you in all your efforts to reach this end.

And to you, young ladies, and my audience generally, I will say that I hope I have not worried you, and if you have gotten a

single idea from anything that I have said that will help you through life, I shall feel that I have been amply compensated for my feeble efforts on this occasion.

Address of Major Sutherlin on the Bill providing for a distribution of the Land Scrip donated Virginia by Congress for Educational purposes.

In the House of Delegates on Wednesday, Jan 24th, 1873, the question being open the bill providing for a distribution of the proceeds of the sale of the Educational Land Scrip, Major W. T. Sutherlin addressed the House as follows:

Mr. Speaker—It is well known that I have always felt a deep interest in the questions involved in the bill now before the House. It is no new subject to me. Four years ago I advocated in a public address, and last winter before the committee of the General Assembly, a proposition almost identical with that which I now have the honor to present. I have examined the law with care, and I shall, therefore, take the liberty in the outset to quote liberally from it, in order that gentlemen may understand its objects as they appear to me, for I feel sure they are not properly appreciated by many members of this House.

I will first read the law and then place upon it the construction which I deem not only justifiable, but unavoidable. The fourth section of the act expressly defines the purpose of the grant. It says: "The money so invested shall constitute a perpetual fund, the capital of which shall remain forever undimished (except so far as may be provided in section 5 of this act), and the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated by each State which

may claim and take the benefit of this act to the endowment, support and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the Legislature of the State may respectively prescribe, in order to promote liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

It will be observed that the benefits of the act are confined to colleges whose leading object is instruction in branches of learning which relate to agriculture and the mechanic arts. Now, in all sincerity and fairness, I ask the gentleman from Albemarle (Mr. Hill(who ably represents the University on this floor, and the gentleman from Rockbridge (Mr. Poague), who spoke so eloquently for the Virginia Military Institute, whether it is the design of either of those institutions, if it obtains the appropriation, to make those branches of learning paramount to all others. I ask because I wish an answer. If the answer is "yes," they come within the sphere of the language of this act: "if "no," they have no right to its benefits. To give it to them under other circumstances would be a plain violation of the spirit of the law. Congress has already ordered an investigation into cases in which, according to good authority, the fund has been diverted from its legitimate uses. What action Congress will take it is not for me to say, but we ought to consider whether we shall act in the teeth of the law, and make ourselves liable to a similar investigation.

I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that it is not the intention of either of the worthy institutions which I have named to perpetrate a wrong in this regard. I have too high an opinion of them

for that. The University, for instance, is an institution of the highest order of literary merit, and occupies a proud position as such, but can it be claimed that after existing sixty or seventy years on a purely literary basis, it will set aside and destroy its curriculum, and make mechanics and agriculture a pre-eminent specialty? Surely that will not be claimed; and yet, if not, it has no right whatever to any part of this appropriation.

But let us review the history of the action of other States under the act of Congress. In some the fund has been applied to universities, or made to build up other purely literary institutions, and their course is now a subject of inquiry. But I propose to notice a few instances where it took a different and proper direction.

In Illinois, (I quote from the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for 1860,) "the Illinois Industrial University has been established. Strong efforts were made by parties acting in the interest of certain institutions to secure the appropriation of the Congressional grant for local purposes, but the Legislature wisely refused to unite the proposed college with any other." It is now, therefore, independent, and conducted entirely in the interest of the industrial classes.

In Iowa an earnest effort was made to divert these lands from the agricultural college, and to use them to increase the endowment of the State University, upon the condition that a department of agriculture should be established, an experimental farm be purchased, and an agricultural course in the University be provided for such as wish to pursue it. It was urged, as it has been elsewhere, that by adopting this course, there could be a large saving of the expense of buildings, Professors' cabinets, libraries, &c., and that in no other way could desirable and neces-

sary funds for the University be so easily procured. The friends of the Agricultural College resisted this attempt to divert the grant from its original purpose, contending that it belonged to it from the terms of the act of Congress, that the industrial classes comprised a majority of the people and tax-payers of the State, and they desired to build up an institutien that should be devoted to their interest. After an able and earnest discussion of the subject, the entire grant was given forever to the Agricultural College. From the judicious location of the lands, they constitute a fine additional endowment of an institution in which the people of the State have a great interest."

In Michigan a purely agricultural college received the grant and it is now in a prosperous condition. The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for 1867 says: "This college proposes, 1st, to impart a knowledge of science and its application to the arts of life. The instruction given in the class-room will be illustrated by experiments in the garden and on the farm. 2d. To afford the students the privilege of daily manual labor, not merely because it is remunerative, but because it is educational, being planned for the illustration of the principles of science, and because a taste for the pursuits of agriculture can be fostered in no other way. The students who pursue a college course without labor rarely engage in industrial pursuits. They are wholly removed from sympathy with farmers and mechanics at a period of life when tastes are rapidly formed. The trustees of the college act on the principle that if a farmer is to be educated for the life and pursuits of a farmer, it must be on the farm itself. Three hours work daily on the farm or in the garden are required of each student; and, while health is preserved by manual labor, he becomes interested in every department of farm and horticultural

work." This college also prosecutes an extensive course of agricultural experiments from year to year, and the practical applications of science are pursued in directions desirable for the farmer—such as surveying, levelling and laying out ground.

In Ohio a similar course was pursued. "After several years of conflict between various colleges of the State to secure the proceeds of the grant, the Legislature passed a law providing for the establishment of one independent college, to be styled The Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College, the leading objects of which are the teaching of such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts." I read this particularly, however, to call attention to the manner of the appointment of the managers, which is similar to that provided in the bill which I shall have the honor to present. The government is vested in a Board of Trustees, consisting of one member from each Congressional district, to serve for a term of six years. I propose that this board shall be elected by the people at a general election, when all the people will have an opportunity of voting for whom they desire to represent them in the management of the institution.

Mr. Matthews, of Petersburg: I would like to ask the gentleman a question. If the money is appropriated to the support of an independent college, where will he get the means to erect buildings and obtain an outfit?

Major Sutherlin: I will give that information to the gentleman soon, but I remark here that the fund is not too small for an independent college, as is alleged, but is more than was adequate to establish some of the most prosperous institutions in the State. But, I resume the line of my argument. In Pennsylvania it is said the Agricultural College appears to be ermerging from its

depressed condition, a condition caused, it is thought by its trustees, by an attempt to elevate it into a literary institution, in which "scientific agriculture was sunk into a secondary object, and practical farming left optional with the students." It is now doing better, because its policy has been changed.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that I have now shown to the satisfaction of impartial minds that Congress had a definite and specific purpose in making this appropriation, and that it cannot properly be diverted for other uses. I have shown also that efforts have been made in many instances by State institutions and others to get hold of the fund, and divert it from its legitimate purpose. What has taken place here, therefore, is no new thing, nor is it to to be wondered at that men and institutions elsewhere will take all they can for their own use, or that legislators will look out for their constituencies. Only a day or two ago a delegate remarked to me that he really cared very little about this matter; that he only wanted his constituents to have a chance to "grease their fingers with the annuity."

Mr. Bagwell: Will the gentleman state who the delegate was, or what institution he represented?

Major Sutherlin: I prefer not; but those who did not may stand up and say so.

Mr. Bagwell: I surely did not.

Major Sutherlin: No doubt, though, you would not object to your constituents being greased, if practicable.

Mr. Bagwell: Yes, I would, under those circumstances.

Mr. O'Ferrall: I would like to ask the gentleman a question. Does the Hampton Normal School, to which, I believe, he proposes to give a third of this appropriation, come within his (Mr. Sutherlin's) idea of the purview of the act of Congress? In other

words, is it such a college as he thinks Congress had in view?

Major Sutherlin: Well, if it does not, my bill provides that it shall not get it.

Mr. Hill: Does that school, in your judgment, fill the bill any more than the University?

Major Sutherlin: I repeat, my bill provides that it shall conform to the Congressional requirement. Otherwise it cannot get it, and the gentleman from Albemarle (Mr. Hill) thought it did, or he would not have reported from his committee a bill giving a third to this same Hampton school.

Mr. Hill: I do think so.

Major Sutherlin: Well, you think that the University will agree to meet the requirements of the act of Congress?

Mr. Hill: I will answer that in due time.

Mr. Sutherlin: But will you not say whether it will make agricultural and mechanical instruction the leading feature in its course?

Mr. Hill: Not to the exclusion of other branches.

Major Sutherlin: I had hoped you would say yes or no, but you will not undertake to say. Shall we, then, violate the very spirit of the act, by giving it to an institution which gives no guarantee of the fulfilment of the contract? What is the design of the scheme? It is to place education within the reach of the masses who propose to follow agriculture and the mechanic arts as a means of livelihood. Does any man suppose, then, that Congress meant to give the grant to an institution which cannot reach that class of people at all? I say emphatically that the University of Virginia is such an institution. It is not the place for a poor student. I have a friend in this body, whom I regret not to see present, to sustain this assertion, who, I understand, has

said that it cost him eleven hundred dollars per year for necessary expenses at that institution. It is due to him to say, too, that he is a gentleman of good moral character, and not at all inclined to be dissipated. I repeat, I do not mean to attack the University, nor to underrate it. It has a great work to perform. It is designed to prepare a certain class for the active duties of life. It is an institution for the benefit of those who propose to devote their lives to literary pursuits, whereas the college contemplated by Congress is for the yeomanry of the land—the tax-paying masses, who live by the sweat of their brow, and not by their wits. It is designed to increase those products of the land upon which we subsist, by teaching our young men to cultivate the soil on scientific principles.

I appeal to the farmers on this floor, Mr. Speaker, to know what it costs each enterprising farmer to experiment for himself? how much time and money is thrown away in running after every new seed, fertilizer, and agricultural implement? An agricultural college should make these experiments for us, and lay the result before those whom the information will benefit. Has the University ever promulgated a cent's worth of information on such subjects and can it give any? I have tried the experiment, but do not choose to tell the result just now; but if I were to detail my agricultural experience with the University, it would create some surprise.

Mr. Hill: The friends of the University have no objection to your making any statement of fact in regard to it.

Major Sutherlin: I do not suppose they have, but for reasons satisfactory to myself, I don't choose to make any statement just now. I feel kindly towards the University, but when it is held up as a great agricultural school, and as of value to the people in

this respect, I must enter my protest. That it has failed in this capacity is not for the lack of an extensive laboratory, nor of accomplished professors. The chair of the agricultural department is to-day filled by one of the most scientific and learned theoretical agriculturists in the country. But one thing he lacks, and that is a practical knowledge of agriculture, so as to utilize his scientific attainments. I do not suppose, Mr. Speaker, that it is the design of the legislature to prepare men for professional life at the expense of this grant. We have already institutions dedicated exclusively to the education and improvement of the mind to that end. A short while ago I met a friend (a member of Congress from North Carollna), who, wishing to give his son a good collegiate education, had been urged to send him to the Kentucky Agricultural College. He declined and sent him to the University of Virginia. Why? Because, as he said, the young man was not to be a farmer, but to learn a profession. For this purpose there was no better place than the University, but if life on a farm was to have been his future occupation, he would have sent him to the Kentucky College. I had the curiosity to ask what the boy's expenses were at the University. His reply was the young man was steady, and had no bad habits, and got along very well on eight hundred dollars per annum. If my friend had not been a member of Congress he could hardly have sent him to such an institution, but members of Congress get about ten thousand dollars a year.

A member: Five thousand dollars a year.

Major Sutherlin: The perquisities make it amount to ten thousand. [Laughter.] I now ask, Mr. Speaker, that the farmers on this floor will look for a moment at the scheme which I propose. How many farmers in Virginia are now conducting

their business on a proper agricultural basis? I admit that there are some few exceptions, but as a rule, farming in Virginia has become very unprofitable. The great mass of farmers are intelligent, well read, and informed upon every subject except that upon which their living depends. Some may even write well for the agricultural papers, but make a poor showing in their own garden, fields and orchards. I once knew a worthy man in Southside Virginia who contributed for fifteen years most interesting and instructive articles to the *Southern Planter*, and a gentleman who had read them all this time, came to the conclusion that the man who wrote so well and learnedly on agriculture must be the greatest and most successful farmer on the continent. Holding him in such high esteem, he had his carpet bags packed and rode seventy-five miles on horse-back to see the great agriculturist at home. When near the place he inquired for it, and was told that it was only half a mile further on, and that he would recognize it by the house being on one side of the road and the stable on the other. Sure enough, he found it as represented, and calling at the door, was greeted by a lady, whom he asked if Mr.———, the great agriculturists, who contributed to the *Southern Planter* lived there. She said that a gentleman of that name (her husband) did live there, and he sometimes contributed to that journal. This stranger was in doubt. He looked around and saw a dilapidated stable, a half-starved calf in the barn yard, some hungry pigs rooting in the yard, and a forlorn cow strolling down the lane, while the fences were down, and everything wore the appearance of neglect. He asked again if the agriculturist lived there, and was answered as before, at the same time being invited to dismount. But no; he said he must be mistaken in the man and the place, and as he was a long ways from home and wanted

to be getting back, rode away disgusted with theoretical farming.

Our great need is practical education. The young men must be taught how to lay off land, to judge of its quality, to tell what manures it needs and how much should be put on a given number of acres. How few know these things now! It is all guess work. They must be taught, too, the benefits to be derived from the introduction of improved machinery—how it tends to cheapen and lessen manual labor. Now, not one man in fifty who buys a reaper or mower knows how to set it up and run it. Indeed, I doubt whether there is hardly a gentleman at the University who know these things, or who can conduct a dairy, harness a horse, or run a straight furrow. I would go the University to see him do it. Agriculture should also be made attractive to the student. It is anything else now. Country homes should be beautified and adorned. You may now go fifty miles in almost any direction and not find a single handsome farm house, with neat and attractive surroundings. Go in doors, and you will find hospitality and plenty, but no real comfort and happiness. But suppose we have five hundred men to-day ready to leave an agricultural college—intelligent men, who had learned landscape gardening, and not only how to raise wheat, corn and tobacco, but to cultivate orchards, vineyards and gardens. Then, indeed, we would have more attractive country homes. What is so pleasant as to ride up to a farm-house and find it well constructed, with a neat yard, flourishing garden and orchard, and stock well fed by somebody who knows how to handle and provide for stock. The Agricultural Society makes a great show of fat cattle at every State Fair, but how few of us know how they are fattened. What means are used to do it cheaply? Hundreds of dollars are frequently spent in improving the breed of hogs, but how few farm-

ers gain a knowledge of this branch of their business without making experiments for themselves?

From what I have thus hastily said I deduce the value of a well conducted experimental farm, which could only be attached to a purely agricultural college. Not only would the students be benefited, but every farmer in the State would have the right to go to such a college and examine the stock and crops, and profit by the experiments of men who are both theoretical and practical agriculturists. Such an institution would test the various seeds, and distribute the best throughout the State. Virginia has lost millions by the want of good seed wheat, specially adapted to the climate and soil of this State. A large amount is also thrown away in the indiscriminate purchase of agricultural implements. If such a college and such a farm as I have sketched were in existence, all might profit by the experiments and observations there made, and it would soon come to be understood that unless approved by the College, such implements would meet with no sale in Virginia. In plows alone we lose a great deal. At this College we propose to teach the boys not only to direct the plow, but to understand its construction and the use of every part, and then to apply scientific knowledge, as well as his own hands, to the handles. Now, nearly every farmer has worthless plows, having no means of knowing until he tries them for himself whether he has the right ones. Some of the most enlightened farmers in my sections of the State, who own immense quantities of land, who are graduates of the University of Virginia, and can talk well on almost any subject, yet say they can't make any money in the pursuit of agriculture. They are behind the times. Rather than purchase a mower, which will do the work of eight hands at half cost, they will cling to the

old and tedious manual labor system. I asked one of these esteemed gentlemen, who has not an improved agricultural implement on his plantation, why he did not buy a mower and reaper. The reply was that he did not know what kind to buy. Here was another instance of the necessity of a State institution upon the plan I have indicated.

I regard the establishment of an agricultural college as one of the best means of improving our waste lands, and of thus enriching the State, so that the public credit may be re-established upon the firm basis of material wealth. A successful system of agriculture will enable us, with a tax of only fifty cents on the hundred dollars, to pay with ease, if necessary, the interest on a debt of a hundred million dollars instead of thirty millions.

Mr. Poague: Did I understand the gentlemen to say that the friend whom he mentioned was a poor farmer because he went to the University?

Major Sutherlin: No, sir! by no means! But with all the educational advantages of the University, he was a failure as a farmer in these times.

Mr. Kincheloe: I wish to ask the gentleman a question. Does not high academic or collegiate education tend to make men averse to following agricultural pursuits? Are not farmers whose education is defective often the best in his opinion?

Major Sutherlin: That is a question often debated, but I cannot discuss it now. I cannot, however, bring my mind to the conclusion indicated by the gentleman who asked the question. Give a young man the right kind of agricultural education, interest him in his studies, and I hardly think that he can become averse to farming. The tendency in too many institutions of learning, particularly, I fear, in our State, Mr. Speaker, has been

to look upon professional life as preferable to any other, and when the farmer's son leaves such institutions he is too apt to wish to make his living in some other manner than by tilling the soil. But in a college such as I propose the result will be very different. The student will go there with a farmer's or mechanic's life in view. He will be trained to the business, and will become attached to and take a pride in it. Farming and the mechanic arts will be dignified in his eyes, and labor be considered respectable. At present the laboring classes, although the bone and sinew of the State, have too little to do with the management of public affairs, and unless some provision is made for the improvement of this class, as can be done by a proper use of this appropriation, the agricultural interest of the State will continue to decline, and farming become less profitable year by year. Many of our best citizens are now leaving the homes of their childhood and going to other parts of the country, or to the cities of our own State, hoping to better their fortunes. The young men are abandoning their farms and seeking more congenial and remunerative employments. What will the credit of Virginia be worth if the cry continues to come up that farming is unprofitable? Our towns, too, must suffer; for they cannot flourish unless sustained by a successful system of agriculture. Our internal improvements must languish and depreciate in value. I tell you, sir, that this state of things ought not to be allowed to continue. We must extend the hand of encouragement to the laboring classes, that they may be induced to remain in Virginia, and not leave us, as thousands are doing every year. We cannot blame them for leaving if the soil refuses to yield. It must be made to yield if prosperity is to dawn upon the land.

But it is said that the fund is too small to establish an Agri-

tural and Mechanical College, such as the necessities of the State demand. The Virginia Military Institute was established, I understand, on an annuity of not over six thousand dollars. It was not enough of itself to make it the great institution it is today, but enough to give it a start. Shall it be said, then, that twelve thousand dollars per annum is not enough to start the institution proposed in my bill? In addition, however, the bill proposes a source of revenue not conptemplated by the act of Congress, and outside of my State appropriation. Wherever located, the college will be worth a great deal to the surrounding country, and I propose that in choosing the location we shall consider not only the advantages of climate, soil, productiveness and accessibility, but that we shall also ascertain what city, county or section will contribute the largest amount by endowment, or otherwise, towards making the institution a success. Thus fifty, seventy-five, or one hundred thousand dollars may be added to the donation of Congress, and who will say that we will not then have enough money to put this great enterprise into successful operation? There are many men all over the State who would contribute in one way or another to the success of a scheme fraught with such promise of prosperity to the Agricultural and Mechanical interests of the State. There are men in my section who would cheerfully give two or three hundred dollars a year for the education of three to five poor pupils, on condition that they return to farming and make it profitable. One gentleman of my acquaintance, who owns a large estate, employs three managers, neither of whom can read or write. What would it be worth to such a man to get educated agriculturists to take charge of his plantations? Now it is almost impossible to get such men, and under these circumstances can any but unprofitable farming be expected?

I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that the proceeds of the sale of the grant, with the contributions which will certainly be realized from the sources I have indicated, will suffice to lay the foundation and rear the superstructure of a great Agricultural and Mechanical College, and place it in operation. We can then see to it that it be placed under proper management, attract to its support men of character, standing, culture and real worth—men who have labored and understand labor, and men who know how to put the most approved theories into practice. Then it will be not only a success, but it will be the great institution of Virginia. Its friends will be found in every city and county, and on every farm and in every workship. It will encourage, foster and support the industrial classes, upon whom our future so greatly depends. And why it should receive less aid from the State than her literary institutions are now receiving? Why should it be less cared for? What institution can confer so many benefits upon the people at large?

I have not failed, Mr. Speaker, to indicate, in the course of my remarks, the part which the mechanic arts are to take in the course of instruction in this institution. Everybody will admit that to manufacture, as well as to agriculture, we must look for prosperity. The great natural resources of the State, now almost hidden from view, are to be touched by the hand of skilled labor, and made to contribute to the wealth of the Commonwealth. Our water power is unsurpassed, our forests are treasures in themselves, and our mines will yet be made to yield a golden harvest. This work should be done by natives of Virginia—by the rising generation as far as practicable—and yet outside of Richmond city to-day there are not more than one hundred boys learning trades. An interest must be awakened in this great subject. Let

the young men be taught that manufactures present an attractive road to wealth. Let, then, the friends of agriculture and the mechanic arts, unite in building up an institution which will encourage our own people to engage intelligently in these pursuits. It may be said that our resources are to be developed by immigrants. That is very well. I would encourage immigration; but shall we wait for forever for strangers to do this work, when we have intelligent and talented young men in abundance, whose energies need only to be directed into the proper channels?

Mr. Speaker, this is a subject in which we should all be deeply interested. If we fail to take advantage of the opportunity now presented, we shall always regret our folly. Virginia, it is said by many, is not as well off to day as she was five years ago. Agriculture and mechanics languish almost everywhere. It is urged that we have not money enough to pay the interest on our State debt. The literary institutions of the State, while doing a great and good work, have not bettered our material condition. Let us now try the college whose features I have presented in outline today. I implore you, gentlemen, to consider this subject dispassionately, to discard all local prejudices, and forget that they have constituencies to be "greased." For myself, I ask nothing, except what I believe to be for the best interest of the State; for my constituents I ask nothing that I would not grant to others. I propose to place this institution in the hands of a Board of Directors chosen by the people, and they shall have the power to locate it as they think best for the good of the greatest number.

It is needless, Mr. Speaker, for me to say more with regard to the Hampton Normal Agricultural College than to state that it is a college established by authority of the General Assembly of Virginia, and designed for the instruction and benefit of the col-

ored people of the State, and I am glad, also, to say that I have been informed that it is in successful operation. It has been admitted by all the applicants for the Congressional Land Scrip that the Hampton Normal Agricultural College is entitled to one-third of the same, and I have recognized this principle in the bill presented by me, and I will also state that so far as I have been able to learn, that division of the fund will be entirely agreeable to the colored people.

I fondly hope, Mr. Speaker, to live to see the day when the Virginia State Agricultural and Mechanical College shall be a thing of the present and not of the future—when its halls are thronged with the sturdy sons of toil, studying those branches which will lead to usefulness in life, and when Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts shall occupy the proud position to which, by their importance, they are entitled. The sons of toil must not be forgotten. They are becoming a power in the land. They have many friends in Virginia to day, and though they are not all men of the learning and ability of those who seem to disregard their wants, they know that if Virginia is to be made worth anything, it must be by the education and consequent elevation of those who are not afraid to work day in and day out, to bring prosperity to our beloved Commonwealth. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the amendment of the gentleman from Richmond city (Mr. Gilman) will prevail.

Address of Major Sutherlin upon the opening of the Border Agricultural Society of Danville, Va., Oct. 1st, 1867.

Fellow Citizens:—An Agricultural Society has been recently formed in the town of Danville, composed of individuals liv-

ing in the border counties of the two States, the object of which is to unite the efforts of our people in the improvement of our lands, our stock, our implements, of farming, our system of labor, and, in short, to stimulate its members, and all around them, to energetic and persistent exertions to place our noble calling in the high position which it should ever have occupied, and to restore the fallen fortunes of our country, now prostrate through the wickedness and folly of ambitious and misguided politicians.

We desire to appeal to every citizen of Danville and the surrounding country, of whatever profession or calling, to unite with this society in its efforts to give a fresh impulse and an increased vigor to the energies of our people, and, as far as possible, to aid in reclaiming the waste places in this portion of our country, with the hope that its influence will be felt for good, not only in our own section, but throughout the entire South. The subject which we bring to your consideration, at this time, is of the highest interest to the people of Virginia and North Carolina. Indeed we know of not one of equal importance.

We often hear it asked, not in a captious spirit, but in earnest, and with great concern: Is it possible for us to live here? Shall we continue our efforts to cultivate our lands? Shall we lease them in small farms, since to sell them is impracticable: or shall we abandon them altogether, and seek homes in a new country, and make a fresh start in a strange land?

It is not surprising, in such times as we now experience, that these and similar enquiries are made by our suffering and bewildered people. We would not venture to answer them, for it is known only to an Allwise Providence what is best for each individual, since only He knows how or when the terrible struggle, now waging for political supremacy, will end.

We will, however, suggest a few practical thoughts in this connection. To what section or country should we go? The same God ruleth everywhere. Here we have a soil unsurpassed in fertility, and in the variety of its production—a climate unequalled the year round, by any of which we have knowledge; with pure water gushing from every hill, and a people of acknowledged intelligence and hospitality. Here, too, lie the bones of our departed loved ones. Shall we give up all these, to go, we know not where, in search of that we may never find? Let us rather forget the past, make the best of the present, dismiss evil forebodings, catch fresh inspiration from the hope of better times to come, and *start afresh here, in our own native land.*

Let us unite with others more hopeful, and make an earnest and continued effort to improve everything around us; to attract immigrants who shall occupy and cultivate our waste lands, that thus we may be enabled to live comfortably, and to provide for the future wants of ourselves and those depending on us.

We invite you, then, to become members of our Society, that you may aid us by your counsel and your example, in introducing new ideas in the management of our farms, and new and improved implements in the cultivation of our soil.

Let us abandon the unprofitable and corrupting study of politics, and devote our leisure hours to the reading of agricultural journals. We may thus become well informed and successful farmers.

It may be thought by some that every effort in this direction will be premature; that in the present unsettled condition of the country, the great body of the people cannot be induced to take an interest in the subject; that we cannot hope for success until

the clouds that now hang over us shall be scattered, and we shall see more of what is now in the future.

Who can tell when all this shall come to pass? or whether *even then* we shall be in a better condition to provide for our material interests than we are now? We would not undervalue the importance of our political interests. Every Anglo-Saxon heart longs for such form of government as will afford ample protection to life, liberty and property, and none that fails to secure these can, for any length of time, command the confidence and support of that race.

Whatever changes may be in our political condition, we have an abiding hope and trust that the day will come (and it should be the constant endeavor of every good citizen to hasten the consummation) when all good people (North and South) will unite on a common basis, which will insure equal and impartial justice to all of both sections.

In the meantime let us all demean ourselves as law-abiding citizens; go to work, and patiently wait for that "reconstruction" which shall bring about this desirable result.

We should remember, however, that no laws or form of government can relieve us from the necessity of labor. Our future success will depend upon our individual effort. Those who make nothing will have nothing; whilst each citizen will be allowed the proceeds of his own labor, none being allowed to claim the proceeds of another's earnings without just compensation. Some are enabled, by their capital, skill and energy, to give employment to others less favored than they, and in this way to impart life and energy to the business operations of the country. Changes are daily taking place in our system of agriculture. They will continue to be made until a complete revolution shall

be effected, and we should be prepared to meet and successfully encounter them.

It is admitted by all, that our first real and substantial gain must come from the successful cultivation of the soil. Our mother earth, though proverbially beneficent, denies her products to the sluggard and the drone.

It is also an undeniable fact that the present labor of this section, and indeed of the entire South, is wholly inadequate, as at present employed, to cultivate properly one-third of our open land; and we may reasonably calculate on a constant reduction of the present available force.

In this view of the subject, is it just to ourselves and our posterity, that we should fold our arms and spend our lives in lamentations over the past, or drag out a miserable existence in contemplating a hopeless future?

We say *no*, emphatically *no*. We should, like men, rise above the difficulties that now impede our progress, and demonstrate to the world that if we cannot *command*, we can do more, we *can deserve success*.

It was with such views and feelings that a portion of the friends of agriculture, in this town and neighborhood, made a move to establish the "Border Agricultural Society," and the success of their efforts thus far, has inspired them with fresh hopes for the future.

It is now confidently expected that the association will be permanently established amongst us, and that it will be successful in infusing new life and energy into the friends of agriculture throughout this entire section, so that their influence shall be felt by those at a distance.

It is not doubted that by means of the social intercourse which

will be fostered by our meetings, and the spirit of commendable competition, which will be encouraged by our proceedings, this honorable calling will be rendered more attractive to the young men of our country, whilst the attachment of those already engaged in it will be greatly strengthened.

Our semi-annual fairs will attract the best stock, and the most improved implements of all kinds. It is thus that the latest inventions in the various departments of the mechanic arts will be brought to the notice of our people, and they will have it in their power to supply themselves with the most desirable article, best adapted to the cultivation of the soil and gathering of their crops.

If there are any of our people who entertain the delusion that the lands of North Carolina or Virginia can be profitably cultivated upon the old system, with hired labor, they are destined soon to wake up to learn their error, when it may be too late to retrieve their losses. Let us, then, with the least possible delay, learn to adapt our customs and our views to the altered condition of the country.

We feel assured that the introduction of the improved implements used in other sections of the country, would save twenty-five per cent. of the labor now expended in the cultivation of our farms.

To secure the exhibition of such articles to the people of this section, is one of the chief objects of this organization.

It is expected that there will also be exhibited at our semi-annual fairs a great many other interesting articles, such as the best horses, mules, cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, together with the best products of the farm, the loom and the dairy. Liberal premiums will be offered for the best articles in each department of enterprise.

In addition to the benefits already indicated, as likely to accrue to our people from the operations of this society, we hope to be instrumental in supplying the growing deficiency of labor, and also introducing amongst us, intelligent and thrifty purchasers, who will occupy and cultivate, on an improved plan, our surplus and unproductive lands.

Having, fellow citizens, thus given you an outline of the purpose and aim of our Society, we leave it to you to give or to withhold your co-operation.

It can scarcely be necessary to say to those of you who live in Danville and the neighboring country, that you have never had a more favorable opportunity offered you, to improve your condition, than through the success of this organization. There is not an individual of your number who is not interested; whilst to the merchant, the manufacturer, the mechanic and the owner of property, it will, if properly encouraged and wisely managed, be a source of no inconsiderable profit. We therefore confidently expect your hearty co-operation and support. The success of the Fair this fall will much depend upon the response which you shall give to a committee who will call on you in a short time, for your contributions to that object.

In conclusion, fellow citizens of the border counties of the two States, we earnestly invite you not only to become members of the "Border Agricultural Society" but to come to our semi-annual Fairs, and to bring with you your best specimens of stock, implements, farm, loom, and dairy products. For these last, we confidently rely on the acknowledged skill and enterprise of the ladies of Virginia and North Carolina, who have never been known to withhold their hand from any good work.

WILLIAM THOMAS SUTHERLIN.

[DUVAL PORTER.]

He is gone! Th' imposing presence no more
Shall move among us: The giant mind,
That could the future as the past explore,
Must live forever: Death has no power to bind
The immortal part: Upon a brighter shore
'Tis kindled afresh to shine forever more.

His vision was prophetic, he foresaw
The coming event ere the shadow came;
Seem'd to know by instinct th' inexorable law
That would fulfil itself and put to shame
The idle fancies of all who prophesied,
Or merely guessed, but his were justified.

His city mourns the loss of such a son,
The most illustrious in her annals found;
The triumphs he has for her commerce won
Shall speak for him, though silent in the ground:
In trumpet tongues throughout the coming years
Will Danville claim this mighty son of hers.

He was the poor man's friend, who better knows
That this is true than he to whom was given
The boon to know him well. He did disclose
A heart of tenderness to such as driven
By cruel fate their miseries to plead,
And find in him a friend in all their need.

Alas!! No more shall trusting friend invite
The counsel wise he was so free to give,
No more the fond wife in whom he did delight,
Nor lovely grand-child for whom he seemed to live,
Hear his voice again until they meet once more
Beyond the veil upon that blissful shore.

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